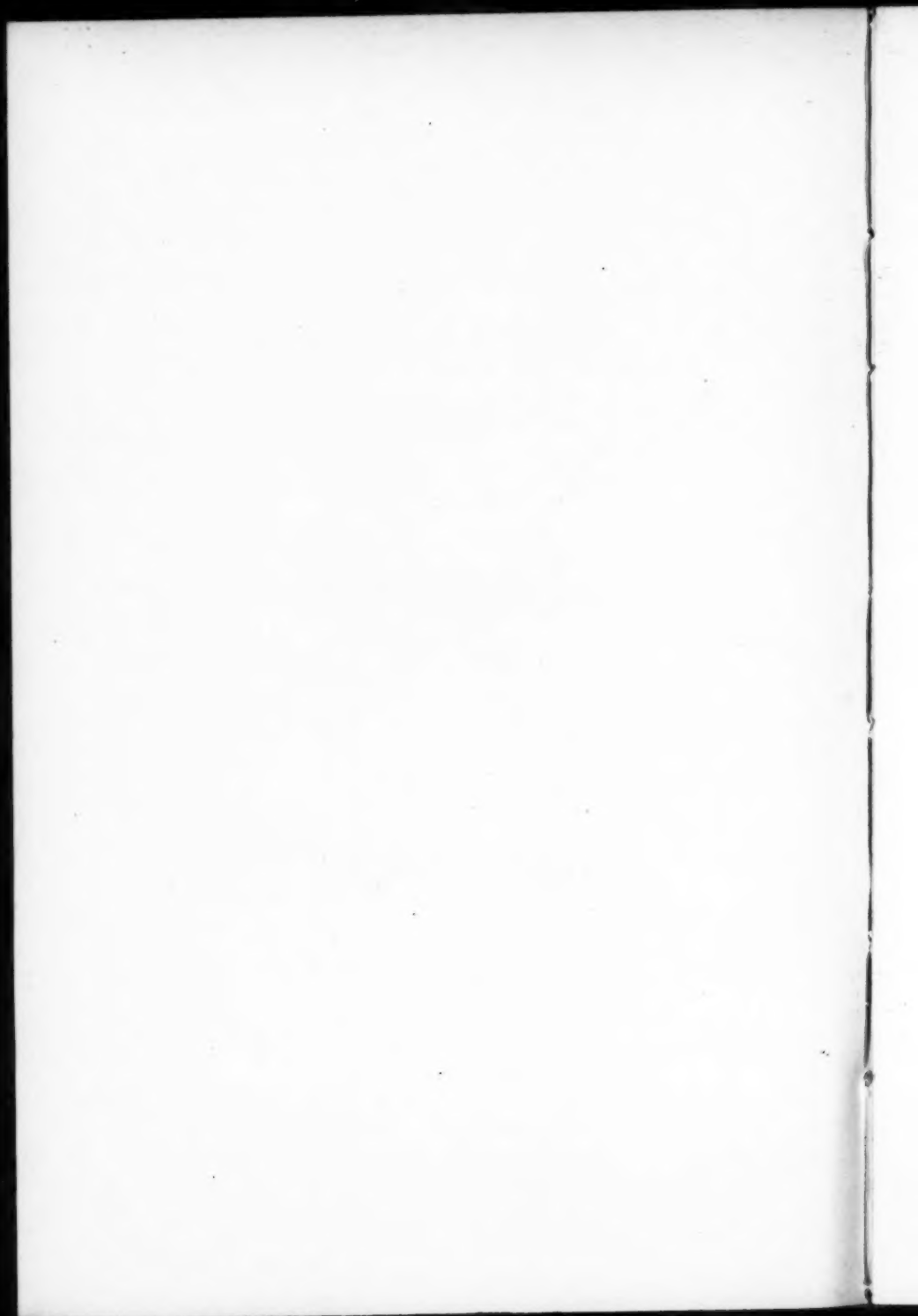


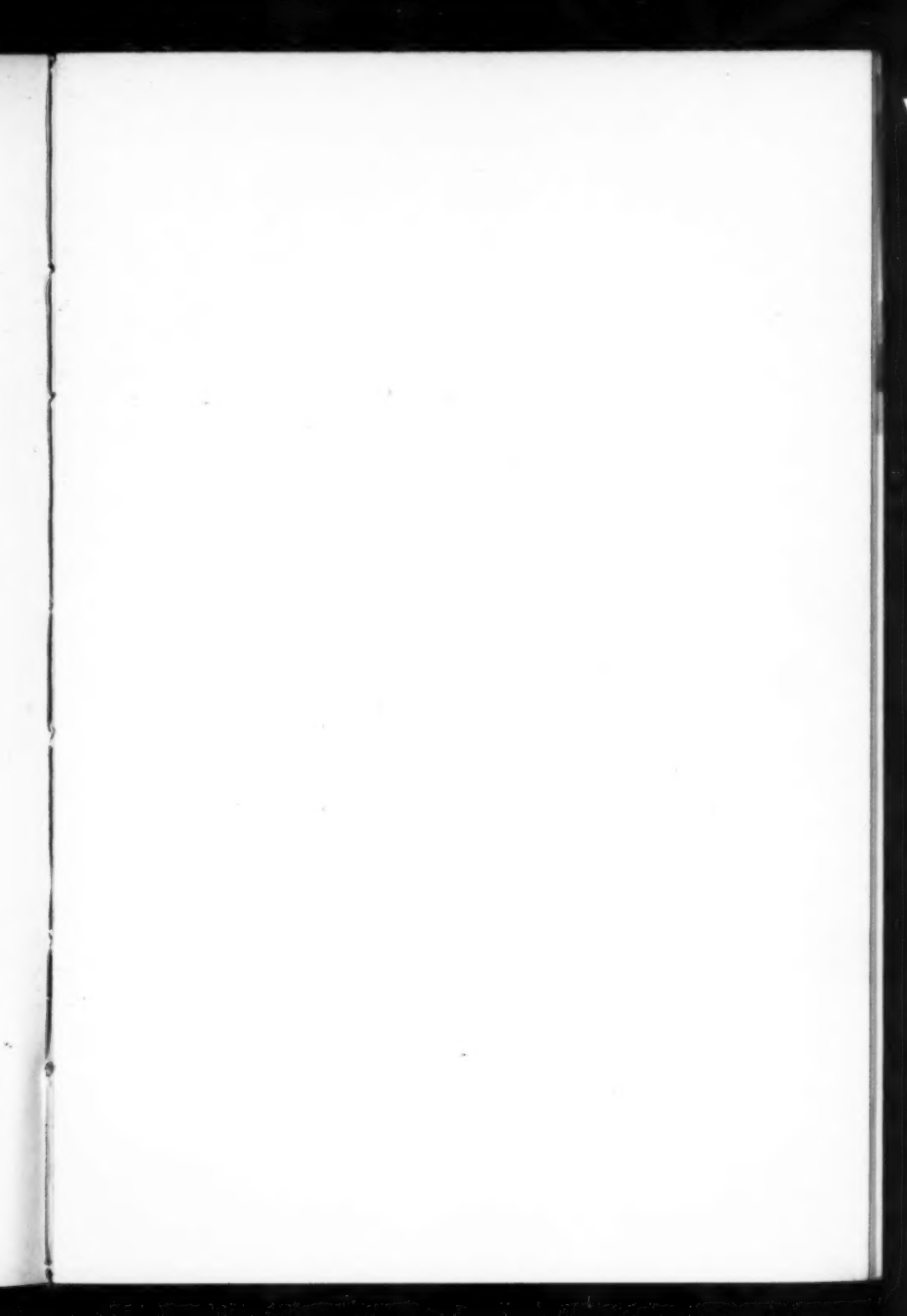
MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN

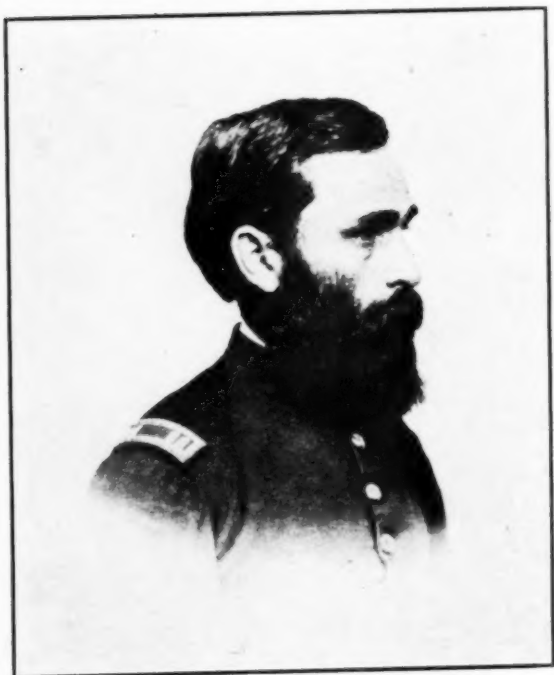
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Brigadier General C.E.

BENJAMIN DENSMORE'S JOURNAL OF AN EXPEDITION ON THE FRONTIER¹

RED WING Dec 20 1857

DANIEL DENSMORE Esqr

Dear Brother—Your epistle of the 22^d ult seems yet to be specially answered by giving in detail an account of my tour to the north-west last fall. I presume you are aware of the fact that I made the tour, that it was prolonged into the wintry season, that though begun auspiciously it terminated with a smack

¹This document was written by Benjamin Densmore shortly after his return from a trip to Otter Tail Lake, then on the extreme frontier of settlement in Minnesota. Although in the form of a letter, most of it appears to have been copied from a journal kept during the expedition. The original manuscript in the possession of Mr. Densmore's family was loaned to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1918, through the courtesy of his daughter, Miss Frances Densmore, and a photostatic copy of it was made for the society's manuscript collection. Additional Densmore Papers including three survey notebooks, maps of the projected towns of Newport, Red River Falls, and Otter Tail City, and many plats of early township surveys have been presented to the society. These papers and especially the letter here printed convey to the modern reader some conception of the hardships endured by the men who literally made the map of Minnesota. Technical knowledge alone was insufficient for them; this had to be supplemented by the sturdy qualities of the pioneer. Indeed, the surveyors who located so many Minnesota towns, permanent and ephemeral, were the forerunners even of the pioneer settlers; only explorers and fur-traders preceded them. The document has been printed *verbatim et literatim*, but standard punctuation marks have been substituted for the dashes used in the original. The notes have been prepared by Miss Dorothy A. Heinemann and Miss Bertha L. Heilbron of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.—Ed.

Benjamin Densmore belonged to a family of pioneers who moved toward the Mississippi as the population in the eastern regions became more dense. His father, Orrin Densmore, a citizen of New Hampshire by birth, settled in Riga, New York, in the first decade of the nineteenth century. It was here that he married Elizabeth Fowle and that Benjamin was born in 1831. Sixteen years later the Densmores again became frontiersmen, this time moving onto a farm near Janesville, Wisconsin. Soon thereafter Benjamin began alternately to teach

of the unromantic and unpoetical, a taste of the trials of famine and of hardship. Yet you have not had an account giving the full gist and pith of the tramp with its exciting events, its beautiful scenery, the novelties which were constantly met with on our way and the "modus operandi" adopted in selecting our route through a region hitherto unexplored by us and through which loaded wagons and teams had not been known to pass.

school and to attend Beloit College from which he graduated in 1852. Upon his return to Janesville he became engaged in the construction of the Janesville and Fond du Lac Railroad. His father was one of three commissioners appointed by the governor of Wisconsin to appraise the value of the property of this road. This was Benjamin Densmore's entrance into a field which soon led him to Minnesota. In 1855 he was entrusted by the Minnesota and Northwestern Railroad Company with the survey of that part of the road extending from St. Paul to St. Anthony and thence to Stillwater and Taylor's Falls, and a year later he became chief engineer for the survey for the same company of the region from St. Anthony to Kettle River and from that point northward toward Duluth. Benjamin's brother Daniel accompanied him to Minnesota in 1855 and in 1857 the family home was moved to Red Wing in Goodhue County, where the father engaged in the lumber business. Benjamin, however, continued his surveying work in various parts of Minnesota. During March and April, 1857, he surveyed the site of Bloomington on the Minnesota River, and, when this work was completed, he undertook an expedition for the Echota and Marion Land Company, one of the numerous firms operating in Minnesota land at the time. During the month of May Densmore marked out the sites of Echota and Marion in Otter Tail County and then penetrated as far as Fergus Falls or, as he called it, "Red River Falls." In the fall of the same year he returned to the Otter Tail region with Charles W. Iddings of St. Paul to station men on the town sites already located and surveyed. This second journey is the subject of the letter here published. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War Densmore enlisted with the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and at the close of the war he was serving as captain of the Fourth United States Heavy Artillery (Colored). Returning to Red Wing in 1866 he assisted in the founding of the Red Wing Iron Works, with which he was connected until two years before his death on January 26, 1913. Densmore Papers in the possession of the Densmore family and the Minnesota Historical Society; Albert N. Marquis, *Book of Minnesotans*, 123 (Chicago, 1907); Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Dakota and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota*, 2:757 (Chicago, 1910); Minnesota, *Special Laws*, 1858, p. 431; *Red Wing Republican* (weekly), January 29, 1913.

Oct. 5/57.² Leaving Saint Paul our route for an hundred miles lay on the east side of the Mississippi river and over a comparatively level country. As the upper Mississippi is quite well settled we have been passing farm-houses and through towns thus far, frequently, selecting our camp-grounds each night at some place where wood and water are near the road. At this place (Little Falls) we cross the river and take the road to Long Prairie twenty-eight miles west of Little Falls. West of the river the face of the country along our route is made up of very high ridges bordering the flat sandy bottoms of Swan River along which our route lays for several miles.

Oct 10 We have now entered an unsettled district two miles west from the Mississippi, on our right forests of pine, rugged and hilly, on our left and before us, the sandy plain with its scanty herbage yet thickly bedded and matted in places with wild strawberry vines. Still farther to the left the river with its tortuous windings, while beyond a weary waste of single oaks, fire brush, poplar wind-falls and a blue fall-sky away in the south. At noon reached the first crossing of the river. Those of the party in advance of the teams have already lighted the fire to cook coffee for dinner, and while we are waiting for the others to come up with the teams I will relate to you our plans, object &c.

The main object of this expedition is to station men on the town-sites, Echota and Marion, which I surveyed and located on the Otter Tail Lake and River last Spring (in May).³ We propose to reach the Lake Via of Long Prairie, hoping to find a feasible and direct route through from the latter place. We have

² This date and the one at the beginning of the following paragraph have been inserted in pencil. The handwriting appears to be the same as that of the rest of the manuscript.

³ Marion and Echota were incorporated as towns by an act of the legislature of June 11, 1858, which located the former at the southwestern end of Otter Tail Lake north of the Otter Tail River (Red River) and the latter at the foot of Truth Lake. The first town officials of Marion as prescribed by the act of incorporation included B. Densmore as president. This probably accounts for the fact that his name is found in the census of Otter Tail County taken in 1860. Although Densmore left members of his party at both Echota and Marion the towns failed to develop beyond the stage of incorporation. Echota is shown on Sewall and Iddings map of 1860; Marion seems to have disappeared even at that early date. Prob-

two teams laden with supplies and outfits for the expedition and for the men who are to remain. Six of our number will compose the two parties, one to be stationed at each town. Two teamsters, Mr C. W. Iddings of Saint Paul, who has consented to assist in exploring the route through, and your humble scribe make up the party.⁴

Toward the middle of the afternoon we recrossed Swan River, after which our route crossed over hills and through valleys irrespective of grade or direction. The wagons being heavily loaded the mules became exhausted of their wonted zeal from tugging at the steep hills and through stony coolies until dusk when on reaching a last summit to the westward of which lay another valley-plain, our modern jehus signified their determination to proceed no farther. Thus we encamped at the summit of a high hill with this inconvenience, that water could be seen to the southward at Swan Lake, to the westward in the valley, but in either direction the intervening distance was a perfect network of brush and brambles; by using great patience we finally succeeded in procuring enough from the valley for supper.

During the evening the heavens blackened up with moist looking clouds which seemed each to wend his own way and that quickly; the men sat about the camp fire as usual but evincing a spirit of restlessness, remarking now of the surrounding country, now of the aspect of the heavens and frequently drawing nearer the fire as a chilling breeze would rise from the valley and sweep the exposed summit where we were camped. Again the winds had gone down, the clouds ran as ever disclosing at intervals an opening into the dark blue heavens beyond. Faintly

ably neither town ever had inhabitants other than those left by the Densmore party. John W. Mason, *History of Otter Tail County*, 1:82-87 (Indianapolis, 1916); Minnesota, *House Journal*, 1858, p. 656; *Special Laws*, 1858, p. 431.

⁴ Charles W. Iddings was a surveyor living over the post office in St. Paul in 1856. After the Densmore expedition he was associated with Joseph S. Sewall of St. Paul, the engineer who built the Wabasha Street bridge. During this connection the two men published a map of Minnesota which is known as the Sewall and Iddings map of 1860. There is some evidence that Iddings was a resident of Otter Tail County for a time, for he too is listed in the census of 1860. Andrew Keiller, *St. Paul City Directory for 1856-1857*, 110; Mason, *Otter Tail County*, 1:82, 87.

but distinct the screech owl is heard over the valley and beyond what seems the confines of darkness. Then all is still.

Among a troop of adventurers like this it is seldom there is not one who is deputed chief musician. Silence had not lasted long when ours broke forth whistling some sweet remembrance of a once favorite melody; he was followed by another and then another, each in his own strain and after his own thoughts until the whole party (save one of the jehus, a phragmatic [*sic*] dutchman) as though unmindful each of what the other did were engaged in this simple passtime. Soon the resonant night air was filled with soft notes floating as softly away into the dusky thickets when "Boys stop whistling or you'll bring a storm" broke forth from the lips of one of our number, a sea salt in years past. A few thoughtful moments and the remaining fire-brands were thrown together and each selecting a spot to lie wrapt him in his blanket and lay down to rest a few short moments more and we thought no more of the sailor's warning nor of the world, but slept and dreamed.

Yet the clouds thickened and betimes assumed a more direct move and ere the golden hours of night were yet announced, a stray drop of rain dropped among the dying embers, then another and another, then myriads, and the storm came down, wakening a sleeper from his couch in the thicket, one from the hill-side, another from the trench in the wagon path where his posture had too effectually checked the escape of the rushing flood down to the valley below. A general melee arose throughout the camp of surprised sleepers. Some sought shelter under the wagons, others were striving to unfold and spread the mammoth canvass. This sheltered us for a time though we had to endure the remainder of the night in wet clothes and wet blankets despite our best endeavors to find shelter, such was the copious deluge of rain water.

About nine oclock the next morning the storm beat away followed by a frizzling rain for an hour. When the rain had fully abated we dried our outfits as well as could be and at noon set out for Long Prairie.

Long Prairie River and Prairie Lake take their name from the prairie which is long, as the name implies; it extends along

the river from twenty to thirty miles and is quite narrow, averaging about a mile in width at its widest parts. We are disappointed however in the appearance of the country north-west of here and toward Otter Tail Lake (the direction we wish to go) for it seems to be quite densely wooded where, from the best we could learn from Government Surveyors, we had supposed we should find an open prairie country.

Long Prairie, some two years since was the Indian Agency for the Winnebago indians. Since then, the post has been vacant [*sic*] by the removal of the indians to the Blue Earth River and has been quite uninhabited until the present summer.⁵

The United States built here from fifty to eighty buildings, some of which are good habitable houses, besides mills, store-houses, shops &c at a cost in all of about \$120,000.⁶

Recently the improvements and lands were disposed of to a private company and people have begun to come and take up their residence. Withal, the place has an air of savage life about it that one does not relish; those blockade houses, those picketed yards, one feels fearful lest the decaying timbers tell a tale revolting or cheerless or startling.

After a short time in consultation, Iddings and self resolved to make up our packs and proceed in the direction of Otter Tail Lake one or two days' travel when we could determine whether it would be practicable to attempt getting through with the teams.

⁵ The treaty of 1846 with the Winnebago brought about the removal of that tribe from Iowa to Long Prairie in 1848. Neither the Indians nor the white men who settled near the reservation were content with this arrangement. As a result a new treaty was concluded at Washington on February 27, 1855, according to the terms of which the Indians gave up this reservation for one on the Blue Earth River. United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "Report" for 1848 in 30 Congress, 2 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 1, p. 459 (serial 537); United States, *Statutes at Large*, 9: 878; 10: 1172.

⁶ An account of the building operations in this region during the years 1849 to 1851 can be found in United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "Report" for 1850, in 31 Congress, 2 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 1, p. 101 (serial 595). The government property passed into the hands of the Long Prairie Land Company of Cincinnati soon after the removal of the Indians. Clara K. Fuller, *History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota*, 1: 217 (Indianapolis, 1915).

And accordingly started out following up the river until night and encamped. The next day at nine oclock A M we came to a bend in the river where we crossed, the river coming from the south and our course being north of west. After traveling through two miles of oak and maple timber began to find tamarac swamp and open marshes ; at noon came to a creek which crossed our course at nearly right angles. Continued on until the middle of the afternoon and the tamarac occurring in denser and larger bodies we determined that the route would be utterly impracticable and turned back, reaching the creek again at dusk where we camped for the night returning to Long Prairie the next day.

Our next project was to go south and west from the prairie, following a wagon trail which leads through the timber from the prairie to the plains ; once on the plains our object will be to make northward fast as possible & at the first opportunity.

The day following our return, then, we set out on the southern route, having left part of our supplies in charge of the company agent at Long Prairie.

During our sojourn at the prairie we availed ourselves of the kindness of a Mr Bauman, an old indian trader, in his offer of house room where we had very comfortable quarters for men roughing it in the bush as we were. On taking our departure from the prairie the old gent kept our company as guide as far as Little Sauk Lake, within two miles of the plains, where he has a claim and has during the last summer raised a crop of vegetables. Soon as we entered the woods, six miles from the agency the route became rough, with sharp pitches, stumps and sideling and crooked places. So our progress was slow and at night we were yet three miles from the little lake.

The old gentleman shows a great deal of anxiety about his vegetables lest the indians may have destroyed them, particularly his onions ; however he kept his patience until the next morning when he walked through to his claim, firstly admonishing us of several springy places in the road near his place. The first of these we reached without difficulty. Our first jehu, probably elated with the success of his animals over the others insisted in going through this without repairs and in so doing upset his load completely. Though without injury other than breaking a travelling companion pertaining to our quasi guide the incident

was a sufficient caution for further procedure. A thorough repair rendered the passage of the second load safe; by cutting half a mile of new road through the brush we avoided the second spring-hole and at noon had reached the claim.

Oh! who that wants or wishes for a "lodge in the vast wilderness,["] let him come here—here, where no honest yeoman would ever see fit to pitch his tent and dig his well. To do credit to the enterprise, however, we must say that the old gentleman has as fine a growth of vegetables as Minnesota soil is capable of producing, mammoth, of first quality and an abundant yield.

It is two miles to the plains from here and we have to cut at least an hundred rods of new road beyond here before we can get along with the teams. After dinner, then, all forces will be sufficiently employed for the rest of the day.

At evening, after a palatable dish of wild duck soup and other etceteras of camp fare our host Mr Bauman held us in audience a good long hour upon a religious discourse wherein he set forth ideas peculiarly native and stubborn arguments; how long he would have talked had we remained attentive we know not for sleep seemed a sweeter restorer to nature than a surfeit of ribald sentiment and he finally wound up preaching to himself for want of listeners.

The next morning and we left the old man with his peck of onions, his monstrous turnips, his undescribable pipe & glory & departed, he to dig his roots, we to steer our way over and through a district of country hitherto unexplored by us and scarcely by civilized man; at 10⁰⁰ A.M descended into the woodland valley, crossed Sauk River and rising from the valley on the western side came out on the broad acres of the unbounded plains; to the right and north distant three miles to five, heavy timber, the head waters of the Long Prairie, & Sauk Rivers. The timber extending away to the western horizon. Westward, "hills peep o'er hills" and abrupt ridges lift thin backs while south west and southward the plains extend away to the limit of vision. We soon found that we had left a shelter in leaving the timber for the winds of the prairie were in high glee and cold. At noon reached a small lake in one of the prairie basins where we halted to refresh the mules,

While this was being done Iddings and self went in advance to look out the route and in due time the party followed taking such a direction as we were able to indicate to them by known signs.

In this manner we continued selecting the route for two or three miles in advance and returning motions until late in the afternoon, when, giving the party directions to encamp at a point of timber still in advance we struck away to the north to discover if there were any possibility of a belt of prairie extending through and beyond the timber.

Before it was yet dark we came to a wide, sluggish and muddy stream coursing eastwardly through the prairie. Thus cut off from further exploration by the probability of miring in an attempt to cross the stream and the stronger possibility of its getting pitch dark before the feat of crossing could be accomplished we abandoned the idea of advancing farther and resorted to climbing the highest tree that could be found near as a station from which to finish our reconnoissance.

From the altitude thus attained sufficient could be seen to demonstrate the entire impossibility of a feasible route to the northward and we turned about and sought our way into camp, skirting timber and marshes, wading through the thick and luxuriant growth of prairie grass and finally, after a seasonable walk in the thick darkness, spied the glimmer of the campfire on our right but separated from us by a watery marsh—this we waded through after tracing its direction some distance, and entered camp quite to the joy and welcome of the party who as yet seem uninitiated in the wild variety of camp-life in the wilds.

What is man's good nature, what is his honest heart, what he is, he himself will feel and know when his tent is pitched miles away from the habitation of man, when darkness of night enwraps his vision, when his sphere of life and life influences is limited to his little troupe of wanderers, is limited to himself.

Such reflex cause elicits the true, the beautiful and the good of man's nature and works to the exclusion of those many artful devices and designs of soul and heart so deeply seated in the teachings and actuations, the sum and pith of civilized life.

Morning came and with it renewed journeyings; found it necessary to retrace our route of yesterday nearly two miles in order to get round the southward of a large marsh, an unforeseen obstacle which detained our onward progress nearly half the forenoon. This surmounted we started westward again passing the point of timber and entering a broad and level prairie, the most beautiful expanse of level prairie I ever gazed upon; it extends northward to the woodlands, westward and in the distance gives place again to the high rolling surface, southward and diversified with groves, doubtless the sylvan surroundings of some prairie embosomed lake.

We had not ventured far on this field when the wagons began to cut the sod and the mules began to mire. We seemed to be crossing a portion of the prairie which acted as a subweir [?] from the south to the north, the dip of the prairie being in that direction. This occasioned us some trouble; one of our teams was evidently failing under their work and for want of proper care. This teamster complained that he had the heaviest load to draw. When we had reached firm ground again a truce was arranged and the entire loading of each wagon changed to the other.

This done and the several mules refreshed meantime by an allowance of grain (our stock of feed was small), we started on, the deportment of the commissary department giving evidence that the change of tonnage had been to some purpose. About the middle of the after noon our wonted equanimity of wonderment became uncontrollable. Thus far the scenery had been that of the monotonous cast, yet beautiful withal and of a passive grandeur. As we approached the western verge of this plateau and were remarking the high swells of land beyond and noticing several isolated knobs or pinnacles on the south west, our attention was attracted by the noise of waves dashing along the beach; we were approaching one of those beautiful sheets of water which occur so plentifully throughout the west. This lake must measure a mile across its narrowest place; it is surrounded by prairie and lies at the eastern base of the high rolling land; on the north eastern it is separated from another and a very small lake by a narrow ridge or bank of sand &

gravel.⁷ It is rare we find a lake without this bourne of beach material on some part of its shore; it is evident this ridge is formed by the upheaval of ice in the spring and by the action of wind and waves. In many cases this ridge affords the only feasible passage by the lake, it being the barrier between the lake and an impassible marsh which extends away to some marshy district or to the woodlands. To-day we seem travelling through nature's rural districts, a district having all the elements of thrift, of prosperity and, of peace, I might say, still being as it is without the habitation of civilized man.

But I was ambitious to get a view beyond the highlands and sped away fast as legs could carry, reaching the summit of what I thought might be the ridge but to find a valley between me and another summit hill higher;⁸ baffled thus several times I at last reached the real summit—back to the east by the plateau we had been traversing during the day, the bottom of a stupendous basin upon the western rim of which I was now standing, the lake hidden from view by the intervening minor summits I had passed, the party and the wagons, a mere spot near the little lake on the prairie, southward the view extending between two groves and onward and southward over the sweeping plain to infinity, where the earth and sky meet in one undefined horizon. Westward, I find myself standing upon the eastern rim of another huge and mammoth basin encircling and confining in its base another large expanded lake, descending into this basin by minor summits as I had ascended from its eastern "contemporary" I at length obtained a fair view, to northward of its lake.⁹ The height of land there and the prairie extending back from the lake seem to indicate an open prairie country still to the north.

The party and the wagons crossed the summit and reached the lake a few minutes before dark. While they were preparing to encamp Iddings and self followed about the eastern side of the lake to see if it would be practicable for the teams to pass

⁷ Probably Lake Reno, a lake of considerable size on the boundary between Pope and Douglas counties.

⁸ Northwest of Lake Reno an elevation of 1,400 feet is reached.

⁹ Probably Lake Mary, in the southern portion of Douglas County.

that way the next morning since if this could be done it would make our route several miles shorter than to encircle the large body of the lake to the south west of us. At the North East extremity of the lake found one of these ridges (though not wholly perfected) separating the larger lake from a very small lake as before mentioned.

It may be of interest to state that where the lake has no visible outlet the excess of water oozes through or under these ridges and escapes to other lakes, that these lakes in turn have a similar sub-outlet or until the discharge of water is sufficiently great to cut through the ridge and form a running stream. Leaving the lake and entering the wood again we went north until our attention was arrested by the loud cackling of geese and ducks and the rushing noise as they sped over their water in their frolicks; this convinced us that the opening in the timber which we were endeavoring to reach was a lake instead of prairie and abandoning further exploration we turned back satisfied that there was but one alternative—to traverse the large body of the lake to the south west and west and to make northward from the west side if possible.

Returning, found the party snugly encamped, the huge canvass drawn up before a very cheerful fire & each one seemingly occupied with his own thoughts—but what bodes this; while at our supper, numbers of green frogs rushed hopping through the camp, over its occupants, camp-fire and all and reaching the lake plunged beneath its waters; perhaps they were frightened by the camp-fire and by our intrusion, but more probably they anticipated the cold and stormy night-wind and sought the water for warmth.

And surely the night was dark and cold & blustering. The cold wind came from out the north west across the lake and poured in and through our camp most unmercifully; those who suffered most however were the poor feeble mules pitiable creatures, they looked more in the morning like two shrivelled beets than like serviceable animals.

Note We camped last night near a government township corner by which we are able to locate ourselves; it seems that we have got far enough west to be quite if not directly south

of Otter Tail Lake, hence we should make to northward soon and fast as possible.

Despatching the teams to southward around the lake under charge of Iddings, I again followed round to northward taking two of the party with me armed for hunting. At 11⁰⁰ A.M. joined Iddings who was in advance of the teams and had reached the North west side of the lake and from there we took up our north course, the country in that direction bidding fair for some time in travelling. At noon we reached a stream which it was necessary to cross. Jehu N° 1 as usual preferred to cross without a bridge and to use an appropriate phrase "pitched in" his mules and wagon literally "ploughing the muddy deep" hole. N° 2 somewhat emulated, would risk his team and load and accordingly pitched in also ditto N° 1. Finding their animals would become fixed property unless detached from the load they led them out and after severe and combined efforts at the extremity of tongue load N° 2 succeeded in wading it out to the hard ground. Their determination to draw out N° 1 in the same manner called forth a short, brief, concise speech of the pie-crust order enforcing the practice of economy of horse-flesh by unloading the floundered wagon before drawing upon it. This soon brought forth the party rule when they pitched in & pitched off the load when a comparatively slight effort brought the wagon out on terra firma. While the mules were waiting the wagon was again loaded and we began the afternoon as though no accident had occurred.

We had gone but a mile or two farther when having reached the northern rim of the grand basin we saw that our progress to northward was again cut off by the timbered districts. After consultation with Iddings he concluded to explore a short distance in the timber while I piloted a route skirting westward along the timber. Wagon traces were numerous and had drawn our close attention since entering the plains. Soon found one of these tending westward which I followed for some distance over hills and down ravines and across marshes until at length it "brought up["] at an old camp ground. Nonplussed and perplexed at this sudden termination of a groundless hope I left the "desolate" looking ashes and by dint of pulling up a sharp ravine we reached the open prairie again; half a mile further

on made an encampment of the party, while I strolled on as usual to explore the route in advance; had been gone but a few minutes when I reached a road leading to the north. This gave renewed hopes of finding a way through the timber and I followed the road until dusk but not long enough to gain any definite idea of its purpose nor termination.

Returning to camp found Iddings there; he had found us again after considerable exertion. Upon relating my discovery soon concluded that the road is one spoken of by a Mr Tuttle of Long Prairie as leading north to some city, some town site.¹⁰ After a long and deliberate "council of war" upon the subject before the camp-fire, we decided it would be prudent to explore the road at least as far as "the city" before taking the teams on, and, that the teams should not be hindered by such an exploration it was further decided to make it in the morning and if possible before 8^o.

Morning dawned and we had already indian like, with each our blanket wrapped about us placed many miles between us and the place where we had slept.

At opening twilight after following the winding route along a hazel valley we came to the "Twa Roads" and being inquisitive of each and both we soon decided each to take a road to follow it up and by a certain time to return again and meet at the forks. By the right hand track we noticed a small stake stating the distance to HOLMES CITY to be three miles.¹¹

¹⁰ W. W. Tuttle was the head of one of the three families living in Long Prairie in 1859. During that year or the year following he moved to West Union. Fuller, *Morrison and Todd Counties*, 1:218, 223.

¹¹ Holmes City was founded by Thomas Holmes, Noah Grant, and W. S. Sanford, all of whom came from Shakopee. As Holmes was the leader of the party his name was given to the settlement. Grant proved his title to a claim; the others, however, were not so successful. Holmes remained in the town only a year or two and then returned to Shakopee. That he was not in Holmes City at the time of Densmore's visit is indicated by the statement of the latter that Holmes had moved west the previous spring. (See *post*, p. 182.) Hence the two men found there by Densmore were probably Grant and Sanford. Although Holmes City is undoubtedly one of the two oldest settlements in Douglas County, most pioneers of the locality and writers up to the present have agreed that Alexandria, founded by the Kinkead brothers in the summer of 1858, was

Divesting us each of our blankets and secreting them nearby in the bushes we set out upon the separate roads with a "much-before-breakfast trot"; had not proceeded far however when we recognized faces somewhat familiar as the "Twa Roads" seemingly confused and afraid to go alone in the woods, met, mingled and ran on as of yore, as one.

Hill, dale and wooded slope seemed no obstacle to our onward tendency and at length a mathematical arrangement of stakes on a rugged side hill inevitably led us to the conclusion that we were entering the suburbs of the city, the stakes indicating in a tangible manner those pieces, parts or parcels of land known and described as being the lot or corner lot of block and conveyed in consideration of dollars per foot per front.

Yes Indeed we were entering the city for we could see the "block corners"; a few minutes' walking indiscriminately through streets and blocks brought us to the nucleus, the heart, the kernel of Holmes City. A good hearty serenade of raps at the cabin door soon brought a response from the sound sleepers within ($8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{C}$) who lifted their latch and bade us enter. The object of our early tour being answered by the prairie which opened out north of the city, a few cursory questions as to its extent in that direction satisfied us as to the route and we were on our way back to meet and order the teams.

settled first. One historical sketch of the county, however, does contain the statement that some old settlers maintain that the Holmes City party had reached its destination a few weeks before the Kinkeads and that both groups were living on their respective locations by August, 1858. Contrary to these assertions, the dates of the journal here published lead to the conclusion that Holmes City was founded at least nine or ten months before Alexandria. There is even a possibility that the Holmes party selected the site in the spring of 1857, for Densmore later mentions the fact that its members explored the region north of the "city" at that time. (See *post*, p. 182.) On the other hand, in October Densmore did not seem to know of the existence of Holmes City though he had probably passed through the region when he made the survey of the previous May. (See *ante*, p. 168, n. 1.) Thus it is likely that the town was founded sometime between May and October, 1857, probably in the early summer of that year. Constant Larson, *History of Douglas and Grant Counties*, 1: 125, 132, 174, 325 (Indianapolis, 1916); Brown and Wright, *Plat Book of Douglas County*, 5 (Philadelphia, 1886).

Found they had but just halted at the edge of the prairie when we gave them the halloo to come on. Thus our flying reconnoissance was made and our route determined upon while no time was actually lost to the progress of the teams. At noon our small cavalcade reached the "city" in due order where we made a liberal halt. Engaging an ox team and two men (the only civilized and domestic inhabitants of the city) to accompany us two days on our route, the men as guides and the oxen to take a part of our tonnage, we left at three o' Pm and struck out to north upon the prairie.

But a short distance from the cabin is a high swell in the prairie; from this we observed on the northern horizon two prominent points or knobs distant about twelve miles.

When night came we had by dint of surrounding marshy places and crossing streams made a northing of about three miles where we camped. Our reinforcement of men from the "City" were the chief attraction of the evening in relating their yarns of adventure and exploit.

Our days service had been uncommonly long and as soon as quiet was the order about the camp-fire we dropped off in deep slumbers.

By following up the practice of exploring in advance of the teams we saved a great deal of unnecessary travel the next day, though from the nature of prairie country we were sometimes deceived in being unable to judge of ground until having reached it. We are aided much, too, by the information of our guide from the city;—he passed through this same section of country last spring in company with Thos Holmes and remembers, the principal features of timber, prairie, &c when passing. It seems that Holmes's object was to reach Otter Tail Lake, but that after travelling a distance of forty miles in a northerly direction he came to a rough and stony country, studded with small lakes; one lake however, he discribed as being very large; this he thought must be battle Lake, a lake situate within seven miles of Otter Tail Lake & South East.

The character of the country being uninviting as it was, he turned back (our guide informs) on his route until within seven miles of Holmes City and then bore westward.

This information at first non-plussed our calculations as we have estimated the lake to be not more than 25 miles at most, directly north from the city. Canvassing the information as a whole brought us to decide that we were west far enough to be south and perhaps west of south from the lake and that hence our policy to reach the lake must be to go north.

About the middle of the forenoon while Iddings continued in advance I followed the border of a marsh for some distance and then turned toward the route taken by the teams; had reached the top of a hazel brush knoll when a pair of monstrous and excessively fat cows started from the burnt hollow of an oak stub nearby. Our hunters being within hailing distance were soon on hand and dispatched one of the animals on the spot; the other, frightened by the tumult of the dogs and hunters in pursuit, kept beyond reach for a short time but like his fellow chum finally took passage in the wagon as game. At noon halted near a small lake and while dinner was being prepared the men "fell to," skinned the game, some pronouncing in the meantime encomiums upon the virtues of cow's oil, some the warmth of cowskin mittens and shoes and others upon the flavor of the roast in prospect; this latter however they did not relish, the animals were completely enveloped in a sheet of blubber fat which would measure at least two inches in thickness and which rendered their flesh insipid for culinary purposes.

Afternoon our route lay along a beautiful belt of prairie bordered on either side by groves of timber and woods; at 4 o' P M crossed a beautiful stream of water which crosses the belt of prairie; half a mile farther north brought us out in full view of the knobs we had noticed from Holmes City.

Since first noticing these knobs we had marked them as a kind of natural observatory whence we should be able to better shape our course for the lake; it was now about half after three o'clock and the knobs though plain to be seen were still some distance off, but Iddings volunteered to visit the summit and gain a view before dark and started off at a rapid pace accompanied by the guide.

I piloted the party & teams along the timber skirting the eastern base of the range until five o' and encamped; before dusk attempted a short reconnoissance toward the mountains for

such we had already termed the high knobs as they seemed to form a continuous range.¹² My tour was brief, however, for I soon found that a thickly brushy country spanned the distance yet between me and the nearest summit & I returned to the camp, just after dark. Supper was delayed for some time, owing to the poorness of the wood gathered about camp and with the expectation too, that Iddings and his comrade would come in in time. Yet he did not arrive as we had expected. Fearing that he might be wandering in the dark two men were despatched to a high knoll to the southward to start a brush-fire for a light and to discharge a gun at intervals. This it seems met his attention though he made no answer to the signal until within a short distance. As they approached the camp-fire and came into the broad light their appearance was truly comical yet partaking of the frightful character. Their clothing torn in places, their hats of the most uncouth shapes, their hair disshevelled and their faces scratched in divers ways and places, Iddings grasping a hunting knife by the hilt with one hand while the other was clenched as if to give a blow, while his companion carried his gun in the position of "make ready."

A moment of astonishment shown by those in camp and all burst into a hearty laugh when the night adventurers confusedly gave their story.

¹² These "mountains" are the Leaf Hills in the southern and eastern portions of Otter Tail County. Although many of the hills are only 1,500 feet above the sea level, at one point they reach an altitude of 1,750 feet. From their highest point the hills gradually slope to the level of Otter Tail Lake which is about 1,300 feet above the sea level.

On the whole Densmore presents an accurate description of the country which he explored. After leaving Long Prairie the party passed through a wilderness of forests and swamps interspersed with patches of open prairie. Lakes were frequently encountered since this district is in the heart of the lake region of Minnesota. Otter Tail County alone includes 1,029 Lakes, the largest being Otter Tail Lake, which is eight miles long and two and a half miles wide, and Battle Lake. The Red River, often called the Otter Tail River between Otter Tail Lake and Breckenridge, is the largest of a number of rivers which flow through or have their sources in this county. A country of "mountains" and prairies, lakes and rivers such as this, is obviously a land of great beauty, a fact which Densmore seems to have fully appreciated. Newton H. Winchell, *Geology of Minnesota*, 4: plate 51 (St. Paul, 1901).

It seems that after they had left the top of the mountains & while crossing the small ridges at its eastern base they were brought to a stand by what they thought to be an animal of the cat kind.

What it might have been they do not know; their only idea of its probable size is from the noise it made going through the bush.

The animal started up before them just as they had reached the top of one of the ridges, and, making a circuit about in the brush came up again a few feet in front of them and stopped. Their wits were now at work as to what course they would take; the first idea was to Stay there till morning. A night spent in camp and plenty to eat, however seemed to take the preference. At this resolve Iddings armed himself with his comrades hunting knife, and, making a track to leeward they left their unknown in its ambush and made pell-mell speed in direction of camp, encountering alike thickets of fire oak, marshes and ponds of water.

The excitement of their pseudo Jonny Gilpin adventure once over and Iddings gave an account of his observations from the top of the mountains. The sun had just touched the western horizon as he reached the summit hence his time and opportunity for a clear and extended view was short; he describes the scenery however as equal to his most sanguine expectations, grand & beautiful; he gained the impression that it would be our best plan to pass over the mountains but did not feel positive enough of the expediency of the move.

Before lying down we had arranged for a second visit to the mountains in the morning before daylight, appointed a time for a signal to cross the mountains and one to continue on the east side, selected a gun from our armory with which to make the signal and made every preparation for an early start.

Hutchinson (the sailor) volunteered to accompany me in this trip, Iddings remaining in camp to act in concert with the appointed signals.

At five A. M. Hutchinson and self set out for the mountain, skirting along the prairie to southward until opposite them then entering the oak openings and ridges and making direct for the peak visited by Iddings. At seven A. M. reached the summit, just as the sun's upper limit stood above the eastern horizon.

Already the view was blurred by frosts and fogs in places yet the main features of the scene stood out in bold relief. Miles and miles away in either direction, groves, slips of prairie, lakes, valleys and hills and plains and woodlands made up the exquisite beauty of the scenery and the sun advanced devouring the jewelled frosts and dissipating the night fogs. A chilly north west wind made us regret having left our blankets as we did at the edge of the prairie and we were obliged to use considerable exertion to prevent being numbed.

Ambitious to attain as great an altitude as possible I ascended a scraggy bur oak on the summit but soon found that this extra height was of more trouble than value.

What, with running from one part of the summit to the other, climbing trees, and descending now and then a short distance on the leeward side of the peak to escape the chilly blast I had become convinced that our only route was to cross the mountains before proceeding farther and accordingly at the appointed hour and minute instructed Hutchinson to discharge his gun having it pointed in the direction of the camp; difficulty in getting it off delayed us a few moments yet the signal was understood and after a second discharge a reply signal was fired by Iddings. Feeling now that the teams would be along in due time I directed Hutchinson to return and get the blankets while I visited other peaks of the mountains and selected a route for our passage.

Further observation more thoroughly convinced me that to cross the mountains is our *only* and hence our best route to the lake.

Although the mountains are very prominent in their principal outline as seen from a distance, a good feasible wagon road can be found to cross them on our route, the approach from either side being gradual and through coulees or ravines while the peaks or knobs rise from a hundred to a hundred and thirty feet above on either side.

While "waiting for the wagon," made a delicious repast of hazel-nuts which grow in profuse abundance on the sides of the mountains. They were so abundant that they gave a tinge or color of their own to the scenery wherever they were found. A fire had run through the mountains a few days before we reached them which burned the brush in patches, thus we had hazel-nuts

green, raw, toasted, roasted, browned or baked as we chose. In due time the party approached in charge of the teams; the men too had discovered the feast of nuts so bountifully provided & were discussing the subject with a zeal not to be outvied by coon, bear, or squirrel.

Soon after we had passed the summit several indians crossed our Track; from one of them we gathered the idea, though vague, that Otter Tail Lake was in north direction but could get no idea of how far it was. None of us could "talk indian" but Iddings, and he was on the side of a distant mountain cracking hazel-nuts and looking in size like a grasshopper on the side of a Dutch barn.

After reaching the western part of the slope our progress was slow and tedious, having in many places to skirt along the edge of springy marshes and in many places to cross them. In this the lightest pair of mules bolted frequently, one of them seeming as if ready to go by the board.

About the middle of the after-noon we came to a very large bog with a stream running through it. Iddings directed the teams to go round to the right—the party crossed the bog and began gathering nuts on a bluff beyond.

I endeavored to find the route taken by Iddings but of no avail and turned back to see where the teams had gone; found they had halted on the south side of the stream where it enters the bog. My best teamster had been very surly during the day and extremely unpleasant; he had placed his wagon along side the stream at a little distance. As I approached and saw him peering across from behind the load I called him to cross & come on, supposing at the same time that he had examined the stream to see if it would be possible to cross. He turned his team and as they were approaching the stream I had reached it and saw that though narrow it was without bottom and immediately stopped him, saying that he should not cross before having examined the stream for him-self, but, he refused to look for himself and bluntly stated that he could cross. So, starting up, the mules cautiously felt their way to the edge of the sod and gathered their feet for a spring. You can scarcely imagine the scene that followed: the animals sprung and would have cleared

the opening through which the creek found its way, it being not over twenty inches wide, but the wagon had cut down, in the boggy sod and it held them back, the left mule sinking in the mire hind feet first until he was stopped by his fore-feet catching on the sod; the other mule fortunately did not sink so far.

The teamster saw in a moment the result of his folly and opened his wail of invective upon me, hoping that "I was now satisfied." He had been murmuring for several days (since the grain had all been fed) and thought now (that his mules were not much better than dead ones) that he had made a fix on me. And had it not been that the party was in hailing distance his animals might have died for it was all our united forces could do to get them out. The next move was to bring grass and brush and logs and bridge the "muddy abyss" so that the wagons and the other teams could cross.

In a short time they were all across safe and sound. It required some legislation to get the unfortunate teamster into the traces again and on the route.

The whole occurrence would have been avoided by building a bridge in the first instance but I felt that a teamster who thought so much of his animals would certainly have care not to expose them to such imminent danger.

Had he refused to cross unless I built a bridge for him I should have cried "bravo" and had the bridge built in a few moments. As it was I could feel no compassion for him neither gratitude though he harnessed his animals and followed.

To do thus seemed his only alternative for he frankly told me that he could not possibly find his way back across the mountains.

We followed down the east side of the bog-marsh some distance and then turning eastwardly entered a large "canon" at the north end of which I discovered Iddings beckoning us to come; he stood on the very summit of one of the mountain peaks which head the "canon" and at a distance of half a mile gave the whole valley in which we were travelling an air of wildness, it being with difficulty that I could at first but recognize him as an indian.

The ascent out of the canon or gorge was not abrupt and the teams found no difficulty in making it.

This was the last high peak we had to cross; the level prairie could be seen away to northward for several miles when it seemed diversified with groves. North by north-east the mountainous range could be seen extending to the horizon; westwardly the surface of the country seemed extremely broken, marshes and small lakes occupying the spaces between the ridges. The descent from this last peak was of easy grade and through beautiful white oak openings. At 5½ P M we reached a small stream which here separates the timber from the prairie; this we bridged and finally crossed camping near it on the north side. While the party were preparing the encampment Iddings and self made a short tour out on the prairie in hopes of getting another view to the north but of no avail; our inferior altitude since leaving the mountain had placed us again on the surface of the earth where a very few feet serve to fix the limits of our vision.

We made our encampment on the lee side of a clump of willow bushes; in the center of this clump or grove we found quite a little pasture of grass which had escaped the fire and was yet green. Cutting a path into this forage lagoon we piloted the mules in where they had a fine repast.

Not twenty feet from the camp-fire was a thrifty growth of hazel-brush bearing a plenteous crop of nuts; these too were of the "assorted and prepared" being in all stages of preparedness from the raw fruit to the "done brown," all by the same fire which had swept over the mountains but a few days since.

While "filling the tea-kettle" from the little brook the boys discovered the skeleton remains of a buffalo submerged to the sod in what was once the channel of the stream, the water having since then worn a channel round the obstruction.

Many conjectures were made as to how the poor fellow became thus entrapped yet we were not surprised at the fact since the adventure we had had with the mules that afternoon.

We lingered long around the camp-fire that evening. A spirit of despondency evident with some; Hutchinson ever the same sea brave spirit alike in sunshine and in lowry weather. Others seemingly indifferent of past present and future, rather passive yet ever ready at the word. Our reinforcement from "Holmes

City" give notice that they must turn back to southward in the morning, their anxiety ever increasing for the safety of their cabin and their stacks of hay from the ravaging prairie fire; to engage them for another day was my desire yet they were not inclined to make the agreement and finally sought their saggy couch and slumbered, leaving the question still undecided.

The party was in a full chorus of 8^{va} [*octavo*] and sub-chorus in full variation interluded by the heavy breathing and monotonous cud-grinding of the swarthy bovines, while Iddings and your humble, were again canvassing the prospects of the morrow, the ability of the mules to take the additional load should the oxen be discharged, the probable distance yet to Otter Tail Lake and various other pertinent subjects, at the same time not forgetting to notice the varied and beautiful scenery we had passed through during the day. The exquisite beauty of the rancho where we were encamped, the interchange of meadow along the brook, with points of timber reaching down from the wooded slope, the light, sweet twitter of the tiny streamlet as it wended its crooked way among the tussocks, around the buffalo bones and down to the little lake below.

The moon adds silver to the crystal star-light, a dense, chill fog rises from the lake reaching up along the meadow toward our camp. A fog, also, came over our vision both optical and mental, and, stupid and sleepy we crawled beneath the blankets and slept.

Entreaty seemed of no avail, yet the guides from the "city" seemed as eager to proceed as to return feeling that a game was on foot for demanding increased pay for any further service I immediately closed the question by ordering their wagon unloaded and paying my indebtedness to them.

Supplying them with a due ration of bread for their return & interchanging well wishes each for a speedy and satisfactory termination of the others tour we set out on our several directions.

The additional load thus given the mules gave the teamsters a dejected air yet every mile of our progress northward over the smooth prairies added convincing proffe that we were wise in having crossed the mountains and that we were not now far from the lake.

As we progressed northward the mountains seemed to sink down to southward, a phenomena which led me to think the country north of the mountains higher than that south.¹³

At noon passed a large lake on our left; rising from the valley of this lake we took our course due north again about 1 o' P M came up in full view of a large lake extending to the right and left "a great distance."¹⁴ So soon as I caught a full view of the north western shore and the land beyond, was firmly impressed that it was a lake I visited while at Otter Tail Lake in May last, and which lies about six miles southeast of Otter Tail Lake. It being doubtful in which direction to surround this lake we ordered a halt and made a rapid tour along the south shore to a high knob about two miles distant. From the summit of this even we were not able to catch a glimpse of Otter Tail yet I was convinced from the disposition of the timber in that direction that my supposition was correct.

The next object was to decide which was the best route to pass the lake, which was soon done.

Iddings volunteered to pilot the route in the direction we had come while I continued around to the west end of the lake and thence northward to obtain more satisfactory information if possible.

On the most southerly point of the beach I noticed a lake to the left and separated from the large lake only by a very narrow and low ridge of sand and gravel supporting a scattered growth of rushes or reeds and in places clumps of willows; further I noticed a place where there were no reeds and the water seemed wetting the sand on the side next the small lake. The

¹³ This must have been an optical illusion since the country slopes continuously northward towards the lakes.

¹⁴ The lake to the left was probably Lake Clitherall, the large lake reached at one o'clock, Battle Lake. (See *post*, p. 199.) From the description of the survey of the southern group of lakes (page 193), it seems that the party camped on East Battle Lake. An eminence of 1,500 feet just south of this lake was probably the "high knob" from which Densmore and his followers tried to catch a glimpse of Otter Tail Lake. A small lake southwest of East Battle Lake corresponds further with Densmore's description. The party probably passed between East and West Battle Lakes on the last lap of their journey to Otter Tail Lake.

ridge on the whole seemed to be formed after the same manner as I have already related.

About half an hour before sundown I had reached a high knoll of land about four miles north of the west end of the lake and was paid for my labor by as fine a view of lake scenery as I have ever witnessed. The object of our indefatigable search peered forth from the forests and groves lying between it and the prairie over which I had been tramping for the last two hours.

And, I stood musing over the scene, the low murmur of Otter Tail Lake could be heard as its tiny waves dashed along the beach before the evening breeze; it made the same low murmur last spring; thus it murmured before the evening breeze years ago and years hence it will murmur on the same, a song of sweet music ever the same though the hopes of those who hear it now will speed away and ever change like those same waves and waters never to know life again, ever the same though time may be and may not be, though the world move up or down and though it be forever a wilderness or become the scene of civilization, ever the same.

But a few minutes of sunlight yet remained & I had several miles of walking to retrace to reach camp. Reached the west end of the lake soon after dark and began carefully picking my way along the shore. About an hour after dark heard the signal gun from the camp but was too far to reply by a halloo.

As I approached that part of the large lake separated from the small one as already related I heard a noise indistinctly as of a rapidly running stream. At first I conjectured it to be the wind rattling the dry reeds in the little lake but as I advanced along the beach the noise became more clear and distinct and soon to my great discomfort, found any further progress barred by a wide torrent-stream pouring from the small lake into the large one.

To go round the small lake with its bordering marshes was unpromising for a night journey; this or to cross the stream were the only alternatives and I adopted the latter. After much trouble a suitable stick for the purpose of a setting pole was found and I ventured in, moved with caution at every step and gained the opposite bank in safety. The current was stronger

than I had anticipated while the depth of the stream was less not exceeding two feet.

Another hour spent between hazel brush and darkness and guided by the signal gun & I found my way into camp much to the gratification of the party who had been apprehensive of my return before morning & much to their satisfaction when they heard my story.

It seems they had looked their way along the south side of the timber along the lake until they reached the small lake I have spoken of when they turned southward, a marsh and stream on their right (west) making it impossible to go in that direction. At dusk they came to the north side of the lake we passed that day at noon and camped.

Two of the party while strolling along the shore of the large lake noticed the place where the water was lipping over the sand from the small lake, and, making a small channel in the sand with their feet the water ran freely into the large lake; this had become the violent stream it was when I crossed it on my return. Content with seeing the little rivulet formed they strolled on, making the circuit of the small lake, and, coming up on the opposite side of the marsh from where the teams were thought their case desperate. It was now near dark and to return the way they came was not to be thought of, so, after searching in vain for a feasible crossing, waded the marshy stream & wended their way into camp.

Our work seemed now accomplished; a few hours would land everything at the foot of Otter Tail Lake.

The next morning Iddings took charge of the teams "en route" while with men of the party I formed a surveying troupe and made a rapid survey of the lake where we had camped, the stream & small lake between it and the large one and finally of the large one & connecting the work by survey with the Otter Tail Lake at its outlet.

We reached the lake with our survey about two hours after the arrival there of the teams.

Though I had much yet to do before turning back toward the Mississippi I felt that the great burden of care and anxiety was now off my hands, that though our future labor would incur fatigue and probably hardships they would be incomparable to

those of plodding over an unexplored route with ill-fed and suffering animals. The party stood the trip heartily and were more robust at the end than when they set out on the journey.

The remainder of the day after two oclock P M was spent in recruiting the teams, in maturing plans for our operations upon the town sites and in looking over the town of "Marion." The inland lake and the Otter Tail Lake and river looked summer old and seedy yet the surroundings woodlands looked as beauteous in the autumn as they did in their spring dress.

Oct 25. Today is Sunday and by unanimous wish is regarded by all the men as a day of rest; for twenty days our energies have been under constant taxation and you can well know with what joy we hail this furlough. Iddings started for the head of the lake to-day, both to put the teams on their homeward route via of Leaf River & Crow Wing & to get an ox team at Otter Tail City¹⁵ to haul our supplies for the party going to Echota which is about sixteen miles below here on the river.

A bath and an afternoon stroll along down the river served me an agreeable passtime for the warm sunny afternoon.

Monday 26. As my work in the Otter Tail River country was various and defined I will copy from my journal for the several days spent there:

All hands except the cook are out in the woods bordering upon the little lake putting up "*the first house in Marion.*"

Iddings returned during the afternoon with a yoke of oxen & wagon. The weather which has been mild for fall begins to threaten coldly.

Tuesday 27. Divided the supply of provisions between the two parties and carried that for Marion across the river, fording the stream just below the lake; this occupied us until three oclock P. M. A cold drizzly rain came on during the forenoon & was

¹⁵ Otter Tail City was situated on the northeastern end of Otter Tail Lake adjoining the mouth of the river and about two miles west of the present village of Otter Tail. During the fifties it was a trading post of considerable importance; it contained the United States land office for the district and one of the two post offices in the county and was the county seat. The land office, however, was moved to Alexandria in 1862, and, after the county seat was moved to Fergus Falls in 1872, the village was soon depopulated. Mason, *Otter Tail County*, 1:83, 86, 95, 103, 109, 677.

now so disagreeably wet and cold that we postponed our departure for Echota until morning.

Wednes 28. And we found the ground white with snow, a cheerless prospect, it looked so wintry; yet we got as early a start as possible "making tracks" for the south to intersect the route leading down the river from Otter Tail Lake.

As the sun rose the snow gradually melted away and by ten o'clock the whole world looked brave as ever in its sedate autumnal dress. The oxen showed a backward spirit at first by refusing to draw up hill, and our ingenuity was taxed for some proper method of getting them along.

It seems they are from Red River and are accustomed to working singly at a cart, hence their dislike to working together after a more civilized manner.

At noon we came to the foot of a steep hill and the animals bolted; at the same [time] "our man Friday & his dog" way laid a coon. So, with unloading and carrying to the top of the hill, killing the coon which was done in a primitive manner with a club, coaxing the hyperborean bovines to take the empty wagon up & piping to cold lunch generally we passed the small hour of day.

While the oxen were yet at their hay Friday & Sam bethought themselves of a hunt along the road in advance and started off with the free air of adventurers, their minds full of the idea of encountering & being privileged to kill "sans ceremonie" *Game*, their loud talk and noisy walk precluding all possibility of coming within gun shot of any *Game*.

Betimes we started on with the team and crossed ridge, traversed vale and passed lake when not discovering our adventurous huntsmen's tracks along the Trail became alarmed lest they were lost. Loud calls were of no avail for no answer came; again the trail was searched but no tracks of them.

Bidding Iddings go on with the load I turned back at full speed, hallooing at every summit I crossed but no reply. At length reached the top of the hill where we had halted and heard Sam & Friday at a distance talking earnestly of where the road was and where they were. After repeated efforts I succeeded in making them hear me (they were going east fast as they could) and they turned about.

A few words were sufficient to show that they were lost of themselves though—as naturally—they were loth to admit but that “they were only hunting about.”]

At all events the adventure answered a good lesson for them to ruminate over when finally left alone at Echota.

In about an hour we had overtaken the team and finding the road obstructed in many places by fallen trees we “beat to arms[”] to remove them. Beyond, we entered as fine a vale as one ought to wish for. We were travelling along the north side of a clear beautiful lake the south side of which is skirted by heavy timber; the north side is bordered by clear prairie for a few rods back, when white oak openings begin and extend northward up the slope from the lake to the summit about eighty rods distant which is crowned by heavy timber. Throughout this open woods the prairie grass grew rank and thrifty.

Indeed, since leaving the hilly region we crossed at noon, our route lay through “pleasant places” and through peaceful groves. At night we encamped in a ravine near the edge of a prairie and convenient to dry wood and a foraging spot for the cattle. During the evening the “coon” was duly dressed and a portion of the game arranged before the campfire “a la cuisinier,” and gave forth a fragrance pleasant to encounter and which gave promise of a delightful breakfast on the morrow.

Thursday 29 Our route continues beautiful as yesterday, frequently passing through prairie vales which embosom many sparkling crystal lakes and are crowned with woodland groves and slopes.

Near one of these lakes we halted at noon for refreshment. About three oclock P. M we came in full view of the Otter Tail River valley below Echota.

Whatever scenery we have viewed since leaving the Mississippi River, be it as it may, it does not surpass that of the Otter Tail River from the point whence we approached it.

Having entered the valley below Echota we were obliged to leave the route we had been following and turn up the valley. At dusk we reached the south side of a large meadow which extends back from the river and encamped; the oxen were very tired and the prospect of crossing the meadow after dark unfavorable.

Friday 30. At noon reached the heavy poplar woods which border the river at Echota on each side and began "cutting a road leading to the center of the town"; this occupied nearly all the afternoon and at night we had camped down at the foot of Sturgeon rapids, the place or site designed for the "Echota mill power."

Sat 31. The woods resounded to the blows from our axes as we wrought a rude cabin from the forest; heavy logs and a wet drizzling rain were no obstacle to our proceedings though we willingly acknowledged the disagreeableness of the latter. At night we had the body of the cabin complete and material prepared for the roof. A bad cold followed the exposure to the wet cold rain, an event not very encouraging since through neglect my supply of clothing was comparatively light for the season.

Sunday, Nov 1. After giving the party instructions with regard to their work, their treatment of indians should any visit them, the course they should pursue in case the company should not send them a new supply of provisions in time, their mode of living during the winter &c, & wishing them each a goodbye, Iddings and self started down the river to visit the "Red River Falls" distant about ten miles, taking the cattle with us.

It is not necessary to give in detail the events following our departure from Echota and final return to Otter Tail Lake except the object of our visit to the falls as nothing else of note occurred meantime.

While in this country last spring I made a survey of the town of "Red River Falls" for a man at Otter Tail City;¹⁶ he had

¹⁶ Years later Densmore dictated some brief notes on this spring expedition in which he states that in February, 1857, he was employed by a land company, that he took a party of men on an exploring expedition, located the town of Fergus Falls and then returned to St. Paul where he made a map of the town, which at that time he called "Red River Falls." His further statement that in November, 1857, he "took out party and left them at Fergus Falls," contradicts this journal and is obviously a mistake. The man who in all probability actually founded the town was Joseph Whitford. During the winter of 1856-57 he was furnished with an outfit for an expedition to the falls of the Red River by James Fergus of Little Falls. The result was the staking out of the town named in honor of the promoter. Whitford went back to Little Falls, but returned in the spring of 1857 with a team and supplies to make a settlement. Densmore's sur-

made the claim last April under instructions from Iddings who had an equal interest in the same. Our object now was to visit the claim and make the survey more definitely and also make improvements of some possible sort.

Arrived at the place just after sundown and much to my surprise found the claim had been jumped and extensive improvements made thereon, several tons of hay cut, a cabin built, breaking done, &c.

After looking the ground over south of the river and about the Falls we proceeded to find a place for fording.

Before we had found a safe place were hailed by a fellow on the opposite side. At this we changed our tactics (knowing the cabin was inhabited) and taking the oxen from the wagon drove them over requesting our generous patron, as he proved, to capture them when they landed; this done he lead them to his stack-yard and again returned to take us over in his boat.

Iddings showed evident signs of disappointment since the claim was in other hands. The short interim before the boat was brought over afforded us opportunity of concerting our plans of action.

Inasmuch as the intent of our visit would only serve to irritate the present claimant it was decided not to make it known to him, while at the same time we would gather all the information possible relative to his claim title. We preserved our incognizance with success and departed the next morning with prostrate hopes and dejected hopes of "Red River Falls."

Wednesday Nov. 4th We arrived at Marion again last night and this morning began preparations for our return home. Since we failed in gaining conclusive information in regard to a direct route from Long Prairie to Otter Tail Lake by the tour we made from the former place in October we decided to make the complete tour between these two points on our return as we would

vey in the spring seems to have been made during Whitford's absence, and it is reasonable to suppose that the man found there by Densmore and Iddings in November was none other than Joseph Whitford. Densmore Papers including a manuscript map of "Red River Falls" in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society; Mason, *Otter Tail County*, 1:91, 479-483.

not then be obliged to follow a route suitable for wagons & teams. Accordingly Iddings went to work making up bread for the journey while I viewed the site of Marion and gave specific orders to that party for the improvements which they were to make.

At 4⁰⁰ P. M. we were all in readiness with packs on our backs & walking sticks in our hands, and, crossing the river took a due south east course over the prairies toward a prominent peak of the Leaf Mountains. At dusk struck on the north shore of the large lake already in our outward journey as lying south of Otter Tail Lake. (We learn that this is the Battle Lake well known in Indian tradition).

About two miles farther on came to a fisherman's lodge; he was a french halfbreed named Boulanger & as is not unfrequently the case in the north west has taken the other side of the house and rears a three quarter family.¹⁷

From him we got directions to Bongo's lodge, another fisherman still farther east on the lake, and finally, engaged him to convey us thither in his birch bark.

A pleasant ride of an hour and a half over the quiet lake brought us to Bongo's lodge.

Iddings had known him for some time and feeling assured of a good welcome, tapped rudely at the bark door of the lodge with his walking stick. A gruff voice replete with good naturedness came from within the lodge bidding us enter.

Bongo is a negro, large in frame and heart, is intelligent and an agreeable talker. So far you may imagine him an Uncle Tom as pictured by M^{rs} Harriet B. Stowe; beyond this he has the spirit of the voyageur & pioneer instead of that of the saint.¹⁸

¹⁷ One white and four half-breed families by the name of Bellanger are enumerated in the census of 1860. The name was evidently a common one in this region, since as early as 1838, George Bonga, writing from Leech Lake to William A. Aitkin and the Reverend W. T. Boutwell, mentions the theft of some goods by a certain Bellenger. Letters dated May 18, 1838, in the Sibley Papers; Mason, *Otter Tail County*, 1:86.

¹⁸ Bonga was the name of a family of negro and Indian half-breeds living in the district between Lake Superior and the Otter Tail region during the nineteenth century. They were the descendants of two negroes who were brought to Mackinaw in 1782 as the slaves of Captain Daniel

Bongo came to the north west some forty years since under the employ of the American Fur Company; resided several years about Lake Superior when his propensity for trapping led him into the Otter Tail Lake country where he has lived among the Chippewa indians ever since. Like the fisherman first mentioned he rears a family from the indian side of the house.

But of our reception: A hearty shake of the hand & he bade us be seated upon the mat on the opposite side of the fire; he enquired if we had eaten supper and finding we had not eaten since leaving the lake, directed his squaw wife to prepare something. While this was being done he entertained us with much interest in recounting events and making inquiries about elections & political matters in general, showing an active thought; he also made special inquiry for Hon H. M. Rice—Mr Rice & himself were more or less coworkers in the fur trade. The supper was spread upon a clean cloth on one of the mats and con-

Robertson, the British commandant, and who were freed upon his death. In the "Mackinac Register" for June 25, 1794, the marriage record of "Jean Bonga and of Jeanne, the former a negro and the latter a negress, both free," appears. Perhaps the most prominent member of the family was George Bonga, a fur-trader who lived on Leech Lake.

As early as 1838 he was actively engaged in the trade with William A. Aitkin. In 1853 the Reverend Solon W. Manney, chaplain of Fort Ripley, visited him, and in the summer of that year Bonga accompanied him on a trip to Otter Tail Lake. The trader returned to Leech Lake, however, for in 1856 he received a visit at that place from Charles E. Flandrau. These visitors found the negro an excellent host. Flandrau mentions the fact that George Bonga and his brother Jack were the only negroes in the neighborhood of Leech Lake. Thus it is possible that the latter was Densmore's host at Battle Lake. Whoever he was, he seems to have had in his hospitality and knowledge of the affairs of the world, some of the qualities of the estimable George. Densmore states that this Bonga also was a fur-trader; hence his connection with Henry M. Rice who was the agent for the Chouteau Fur Company during the early years of his residence in Minnesota. In 1897 it was estimated that about one hundred descendants of Jean Bonga were living around Leech Lake. *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 5: 488; 8: 529; 9: 56, 199; 10: 191; "The Mackinac Register," in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, 18: 497; and the following manuscripts in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society: Manney Diary, March 11, 13, 14, June 1, 8, 1853; Bonga to Boutwell, April 1, May 18, June 7, 1838, and Bonga to Aitkin, May 18, June 18, 1838, in the Sibley Papers; Bonga to H. M. Rice, December, 1872, an autobiography, in the Minnesota Miscellany.

sisted of boiled fish & tea, or more simply boiled fish. And Oh! ye Epicures who would know what is good of the genus pisces must make a pilgrimage to Bongo's or some other kindred genius' fishing lodge and submit the affair of preparing a member of the finny tribe for the table to the supervision of his dusky better half. We were not yet strangers to plenty—inured to hunger wherefore the dish was endowed with excellence—the flavor was inherent in the viand itself and we take pride in extolling its sweetness. We took our meal “a la Turc,” reclining or sitting cross legged as seemed convenient.

The cloth removed, the mat next served as our couch; our packs untied & blankets spread out & we were soon in sound slumbers.

Rain began falling during the night which hindered our departure until noon of the next day; after dinner made up our packs again and set out toward the peak of Leaf Mountain noticed from Otter Tail Lake. At night had made about half the distance to it from Bongo's and camped.

The wood was yet wet and damp from the rain & for a time it seemed quite impossible to start a fire. The sky threatened more rain & our time until late in the evening was occupied in constructing a kind of bower for shelter. Then to preparing supper.

Our stock of provisions consisted as follows “to wit” Bread 3 lbs salt pork 1 lb and a small packet of tea. Sufficient quantity, we thought for the journey before us but upon inspection that night looked scanty indeed. So we began with rigid economy making our supper upon a short allowance.

The night passed and the day dawned without a storm. As small an allowance again of our store served for breakfast.

At 10½⁰⁰ reached the summit of the peak, in Leaf Mountains. In every direction from the point the scenery is beautiful. South West a mountainous range sweeping round to west and distant a days travel encircling a rich plateau of prairie and groves of timber & lakes; North, mountainous; North East, a broad expanse of prairie bounded beyond by timber; South East, an immense grey field of poplar brush & fire oak with an occasional clump of trees. At the farther side of this field a high

knob stands alone which being in the direction we wished to go served as a landmark. Again we viewed the scene & then began descending the eastern side of the mountain, fighting our way through the oak fire brush on the ridges & wading the intervening marshes. At noon indulged in eating, each a small biscuit. The brush seemed interminable, turn which way we would to avoid it. When a marsh occurred in our way and led the direction we wished to go we waded along its margin in preference to warping along through the brush; betimes we would come to a lake & were it large or small it seemed invariably to cross our path at right angles & we were obliged to traverse round. During the afternoon came to a soaking water way where we found a thorn apple tree laden with fruit. This was a refreshment we had not looked for & you may picture to yourself the figure we cut for the next quarter hour; Viz two bruins (of the genus homo) devouring wild fruit. But with the apples came thorns, prickly ash of all pretensions meeting and embracing us at every step when we started onward.

The sun set and darkness came & we were still wandering along in search of some lake or pond to encamp by, choosing rather to plod along in the dark than endure thirst over night.

By keeping close watch of the stars we were able to maintain our course; after travelling thus about two hours we came to an opening in the dense brush-wood just large enough for a small marshy pond, a small basin of not more than three rods in diameter where the prim poplars seemed to say we will allow but so much space, there are so many of us here that we are already crowded and can allow no more. Yet the little pool seemed grateful; it reflected back the light of as many stars as could get a peep at it and as truthfully as the broad ocean. That night it cast reflections which I trust it may never cast again, two ragged explorers, hungered and weary.

But of what use; we were now in the heart of the jungle and a retreat was equally practicable in either direction. Excelsior might have been our motto for we were content & grateful with what we had & nursed a strong hope for the morrow.

This little pool suited us and we went gratefully to work preparing a dry place near the edge of the marsh for our bivouac & collecting wood for our camp fire & dry grass for our bed.

We "sat up late" that night repairing our clothing which had become sadly torn and worn coming through the brush, a task made doubly tedious by the loss of all the thread we had been the happy possessors of when we made our halt and further by the loss of two most excellent & substantial knee patches some time since dark.

However, we managed to get up passable amends and the evening came & went again from our "Squatter Sovereignty" temple and not a single beam of gloominess.

The day following our route was more diversified with large trees yet the undergrowth presented as formidable a barrier as the day before.

Before leaving the camp fire we divided the remainder of our provisions into two parts, one for our lunch at noon, the other for our supper, supposing that night would bring us at least within twelve miles of Long Prairie. At 10½^{oc} we gained the summit of the knob we had viewed the day before from Leaf Mountain.

We now seemed in the very heart of a creation of dense brush-wood, North west the Mountains standing in relief against the sky, the limit in that direction of the mammoth basin we had been traversing; Northward and distant about 3 miles, a prairie which extends away toward Leaf Lakes & nearly parallel with the route we had come; South west several miles distant another prairie, probably the one we had passed over on our outward route. Southward and distant about 5 miles a large lake is seen, apparently surrounded with brush wood of the same kind we were so well acquainted with of late. This lake is probably very extensive, though from the knob it appears like a long belt of silver. Every point of the compass east of the knob is alike, one dreamy expanse of indifferent timber, poplars & fire brush. To the southeast & probably another day's journey a high comb or point of grey timber stood as a landmark, a mark we had observed, we thought, on our tour up the Long Prairie river in October but in this we were disappointed. Concluding our observations from the knob we descended its southeastern slope without so much as a forlorn hope that we might recognize our whereabouts in the next twenty-four hour's travelling. Of only one thing we were at all times certain, that the direction we were

going would, if we continued in it, eventually bring us to the Mississippi river or some of its branches.

For an hour after we left the knob our road was brushy as ever but more interspersed with large trees than before. At noon we came to a large lake in the woods. This gave us renewed courage for we believed we had at last reached the head waters of the Long Prairie River, the heavy timber at the same time indicating a route ahead less obstructed by brush.¹⁹

After resting a while on the bank of the lake and quenching our thirst with its waters we started Southward along the shore (this lake is quite two miles long & like the small pond like lakes of the poplar field, we struck it at about the same distance from either extremity) and at the south end crossed its outlet. Here our "expectation stood on stilts"; the question arose, "Is not this the little stream we camped upon in October?" The scenery appeared familiar to us, the stream was of the same volume & general appearance & even the points of tamarac standing out in the marsh which the stream ran through reminded us of the camp wood we cut that night. Hope led our fancy in picturing matters thus familiarly & had everything been equally true we should have been within twelve miles of our journey's end at dark.

The remainder of the day was spent in travelling through a desolate waste of larch windfalls and poplar windfalls, burnt districts, tamarac swamps & water marshes.

Toward dusk the timber began to assume a more thrifty & hardy appearance, the ground descending gradually as we went along and before night had fallen upon us we came to the river. A few minutes served to determine the direction of its sluggish current. All observation confirmed the idea that it was the Long Prairie river yet we were now lost to know whether we were above or below the agency. In our anxiety to solve this question we started down the river but had not gone far when we were

¹⁹ The head waters of the Long Prairie River are in Lake Carlos, but it is hardly possible that Densmore and Iddings had gone that far south. The lake mentioned is probably one of the many lakes in the southeastern part of Otter Tail County or the northeastern part of Douglas, possibly Lake Irene. From here they doubtless went southeast until they reached the river.

obliged to stop and prepare for the night again. This operation occupied some time after dark. At the same time we were both deeply absorbed in the one idea, our condition & prospects of where we were, exchanging as we came near each other in our "dark work" some thought or some important fact working strongly upon our minds as they recounted the last few days' journey.

Three pair of snowshoes were discovered hanging in a tree near our fire. Eager to catch a glimpse of anything which bespoke the white man's hand we strove to think some explorer had here left his snowshoes and gone on either in a canoe by river or by land as we had done. But any conclusion to the effect that a civilized hand had placed them there was unsatisfactory and we unanimously attributed to the red man his just works, confident that if one of our own race had been so unfortunate as to visit the place we were now in he would have made speedy preparations to remove to some more genial scene.

After the usual time spent in gathering wood & kindling a fire we arranged ourselves "*a la cuisinier du bois*" and prepared for supper, each, one of his two remaining rations, rations to which a boston cracker & half a small herring would be a feast. We also had a brew of tea which by the way was very gratefully accepted, though made in a gill can & sipped from an half gill cup, our only cooking and table ware.

For a whole hour we hung round the camp fire, during the most of which time we had in question our route for the morrow; the more we talked over the matter the more firmly was the idea fixed in our minds that our route was to follow down the stream.

Sleep was sweet that night for we were wearied; well that it was so for the following morning the ground was covered with snow and snow was still falling. You may be able to picture in your own mind our condition & thoughts at that time; we had consumed the last remnant of food from our packs & made them up ready for the day's journey. Weapons we had none except a small hand axe, nor fire-arm, nor knife nor fishing implements we had none. We were in solitude & alone. we knew not where, save that the stream was before us, the wilder-

ness all about us, the snow falling noiselessly, silence, Sunday morning.

We could make but one resolve & that was to travel constantly & as fast as our condition would permit down the river.

The prickly ash & brush bordering the stream foretold the character of the work we had to do; branches of the main river too wide for us to leap across, we waded; to shorten the distance we had to travel we waded through the overflowed marshes.

Thus with the varied forms of wood & water to oppose and famishing bodies to support we contended though feebly for our way.

To be thus situated was far from being desirable, but should we by any means become separated one from the other, one or both, I felt, might surely perish, and to prevent this further addition to our miseries I allowed Iddings to go in advance & followed him, keeping his tracks.

He kept in advance some distance until about 10⁰⁰ A. M. when I came up with him near the river bank; he was engaged tying his pack & soon related his adventure. He discovered an eagle quietly devouring a fish upon a rock by the water side & creeping cautiously up near the bird frightened him away and secured the prize. The fish weighed perhaps ten ounces, and Iddings secured it carefully as though it had been a thing of fabulous value.

About an hour afterward we were brought to a halt by a very deep, wide & sluggish stream, a branch of the main river; after much searching for a place to ford we turned about and forded the main stream at some rapids. At the junction of these two streams the general course of the river which had been to the N.E by E becomes quite due south for nearly two miles, running through a kind of willow prairie.

Beyond this we were again "blockaded" by another deep & muddy stream coming from the South west, too wide to leap across, mud bottom of unknown depth. We followed up the right bank a mile or more & finally crossed by means of a bridge of tamarac poles laid from bank to bank. Until this we had not felt our growing weakness, though we travelled slowly & not without considerable exertion; to fell the small trees & place them across the stream was a rigid test of our muscular powers.

Beyond this stream, thickets & swamps & marshes occurred quite regularly with now & then, but far between, little nooks of prairie a few rods across.

Midday found us plodding onward, the snow still falling, our tattered garments leaving mementoes of our journey upon every thorn, while the river, seemingly to warn us that we had no garments though ragged even to spare, bore upon its bosom the first trophies of winter, large flakes of anchor ice.

Frequently in crossing the little prairies we would find rose buds and seldom thorn apples and haw berries of all of which we ate as we desired.

During the afternoon we came to a small cranberry marsh; the snow had not yet covered the vines, so with our bare hands we plucked the frozen rubies and ate of them until hands & feet cried out with pain at the cold work & prudence started us onward again.

Evening came, Sunday evening & with it a fog which with the darkness made the evening gloomy. Still we kept our course along the river occasionally leaving its bank for a few minutes but to return again & follow. About nine o'clock we made a halt where the river ran close by some timber.

Here our energies were put to the test again to collect material sufficiently dry to start a fire; having found a large tree which had fallen down we collected our indifferent fuel about it & after repeated efforts succeeded in getting a wet, smouldering fire with but little heat.

Eleven by the watch found us a little refreshed by the heat & rest but weary & emaciated, weary for rest & emaciate beyond the desire for food even had we any. We made the usual couch of brush & grass before the fire & passed the night watching & sleeping by turns.

Morning discovered to us our position, encamped on a low knoll of hard wood timber & still surrounded on all sides by the wilderness of poplar jungles, tamarac swamps, huge birches & varieties of hard wood. The air still hung with snowy clouds illy promising for the day & coldly bidding us to be active or perhaps perish. Hope never ceased with us & we engaged cheerfully in our morning task "to wit" patching & tying up our

clothing, making up our packs & dressing & cooking "the fish," the only morsel of food we had tasted for twenty-four hours and though scant & but a mere fragment it was no mockery.

We now seemed to take a more sensible view than ever of our "predicament." I had noticed Iddings closely since the yesterday morning & thought a marked change was working upon him; he spoke seldom, indeed we exchanged but few words during the day & then only to decide upon some choice of a path. He too I found had been paying me the same vacant though not disinterested compliment and I was somewhat startled at one time on looking up to find him gazing intently upon my features. While recounting our adventure some time afterward I referred him to that morning & he said he was in fact becoming alarmed at the condition we were in.

But we did not linger long around so uncongenial a camp fire; we left it smouldering and smoking on the bleak, dismal knoll, believing that the mortal who might ever visit that place in his wanderings would say "Whoso that was here was here but for a night."

The snow was now nearly four inches in depth, sufficient to conceal the slippery sticks and roots beneath and every unwary step either brought us prostrate or sent us headlong our packs flying in one direction, our feet in another. Intent upon getting hold of something to eat we made divers onslaughts upon ground mice and squirrels. At one time we had both thrown off our packs and commenced digging after one of the aforesaid quadrupeds; Iddings was sure he saw him run into the hole, but we were not successful in capturing the fellow. Pheasants, unaccustomed to the sight of man would allow us to approach them near enough to throw a club but all our attempts to capture game were fruitless & we soon relapsed into our quiet mode Iddings taking the lead in preference to following.

Thus we continued until about eleven o'clock when he sent up a shout which made the wilderness ring & echo again. I soon came up with him & found him opening his pack as he had done the day before. By his side lay a *rabbit* which had been killed but a short time since by some beast of prey; its heart had been eaten out and the blood drank, otherwise it was as nice as it would have been, right from johnny's game-bag.

Think you that two famished men would spurn such a prize, just from dame nature's stalls & prepared for market by one of her daintiest caterers (a timber wolf, no doubt)?

We did not hesitate a moment for whim or prejudice, but expressed our heartfelt gratitude for the prize—manna as it was—and believed that now our journey would terminate with success; we certainly could not be more than another day's travel from Long Prairie.

And we did succeed. At three oclock in the afternoon we reached the point on the river where we had crossed it in making our reconnoissance for a wagon route a month before.

Our trials were now at an end, though it was twelve miles yet to the prairie, to know where we were with reference to that place inspired courage we had long been strangers to.

At ten oclock we roused the inmates of the barricaded house at the prairie & were bade thrice thrice welcome.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

James Baird Weaver (Iowa Biographical Series). By Fred Emory Haynes. (Iowa City, Iowa, The State Historical Society, 1919. xv, 494 p. Portraits.)

The biography of any man who represents a group, large or small, or who typifies a movement of whatever significance in the development of a people, adds materially to available information of social advance in its more comprehensive aspects. General Weaver was not merely representative of an important group; he was perhaps its most outstanding leader, and he embodied as did no other single individual the essence of a movement which has manifested itself in our national development from early colonial days down to the present moment. A study of the life of such a man is something which is worth doing and doing well. Mr. Haynes, in bringing the principal facts of Weaver's life to the attention of students of American development, has added significantly to the readily available material on the agrarian unrest and its causes, as well as on that period which has as yet been inadequately treated by those who have attempted to outline the story of national progress in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. All in all, Mr. Haynes has performed his task intelligently and well.

Two rather short chapters cover Weaver's career down to the outbreak of the Civil War, three more chapters outline his part in that great struggle, and practically all the remainder of the book is devoted to Weaver as a factor in political life. Starting with his activities in the ranks of the Republican party, the author traces in considerable detail General Weaver's career as a political leader in his own state of Iowa, his three terms in Congress, and his campaigns for the presidency. His defection from the older party to join the Greenbackers, the decline of their movement, the carrying forward of certain essential planks from their platform, and the merging of different elements, to a large degree guided by General Weaver, into the People's party of the nineties are presented in order and with much attention to what at times becomes rather wearisome detail.

Mr. Haynes found no vast body of source material for the biography; a brief sketch of his earlier life written by the general in later days, a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, and a small number of unprinted letters afforded so scanty an amount of first hand evidence, that Weaver's printed speeches, both in Congress and out, have been forced into an undue prominence. The very paucity of personal material, exclusive of such speeches, placed upon the author a heavy task which he met by making long and frequent excerpts from sources available to anyone who has access to the *Congressional Record*. When these are used to exemplify different phases of General Weaver's activities, ample justification exists; but when, as so frequently is the case, little if anything new is developed, such prodigality of quotation produces a feeling of monotony. General Weaver's reaction to the various monetary issues was much the same in 1886 as it had been when he addressed his colleagues in the United States House of Representatives in 1876.

Since Weaver was a leader of a cause greater than himself, it would seem not out of place to devote more attention to the setting, even at the expense of some pages of congressional oratory. To describe at greater length the economic depression in the Mississippi Valley in the eighties and the reaction of the agrarian element to that condition might be repetition of what has been written elsewhere, but it would serve to heighten the effect of the leader's attempt to voice that discontent and at the same time would bring his services into stronger relief. More of the story of farmers' alliances, agricultural unions and wheels, labor uneasiness, and their mutual interaction might be told with no loss to the treatment of the central theme. Furthermore, on the broader topic, there still remains a mass of material as yet unused which would have enriched a biography of this nature. The Donnelly Papers of the Minnesota Historical Society, for example, contain a wealth of unexploited material bearing directly on this issue. Local and evanescent publications, of which the times produced so ample a store, form a treasury on which the student of farmers' economic problems and their political consequences may draw without fear of exhausting the supply.

It is doubtless of no avail to add yet another protest against an editorial policy which persists in relegating to certain pages

in the back of the book what customarily forms the footnotes in other publications. The careful student will turn to these pages to ascertain whence the writer derived certain facts on which he based certain conclusions, but he will do so reluctantly, regretting that all the world cannot see eye to eye with himself.

LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE

With the Colors from Anoka County. By Roe Chase. (1919. 175 p. Illustrations.)

Goodhue County in the World War. (Red Wing, Minnesota, Red Wing Printing Company, 1919. 192, 55a p. Illustrations.)

Waseca County, Minnesota, in the World War. (Waseca, Minnesota, *Journal Radical*, 1919. 224 p. Illustrations.)

In the World War, 1917-1918-1919: Watonwan County, Minnesota. Edited by Will Curtis. (St. James, Minnesota, St. James Plaindealer. Illustrations.)

In commemoration of the services rendered by the people of their several counties in the prosecution of the late war, local publishers throughout the state are compiling and printing county war histories. Among the first of these to appear are the volumes which contain the war records of Anoka, Goodhue, Waseca, and Watonwan counties. A general similarity of purpose and content naturally characterizes the group. Each book is dedicated primarily "to the memory of those men . . . who gave their lives that this world might be a better place in which to live." A major part of each volume is devoted to individual photographs and brief statements of the services of soldiers, sailors, marines, and nurses from the county. In another main section is given some account of the war work done by organizations and individuals in the home community, accompanied by photographs of local leaders and committees and by other illustrative material. Something of the general course of events which occasioned these activities, and in the shaping of which some of the men from the county directly participated, is indicated by the inclusion of historical resumé, chronologies, or reports relating to the World War, and of portraits of the military and political leaders of the United States and of the allied nations. Somewhere in the book

recognition is always given to the local veterans of earlier wars. The numerous photographic reproductions in each are uniformly excellent.

In a number of important particulars *With the Colors from Anoka County* is unique. It combines a maximum of historical fact with a minimum of ornamentation. An unusual amount of space, four-fifths of the volume, is devoted to historical narrative which is unusually broad in scope. This opens with a review of the military participation of the county in former wars and of local reactions to events in Europe and on the Mexican border before the entrance of the United States into the World War. Then follows a comprehensive record of the county's activities during the period of the war, in which its effects on the life of the home community are clearly reflected. Strictly speaking, the account as a whole is not a historical narrative but a chronicle treating of events in a single series, uninterrupted except by the frequent introduction of lists of names of selective service men, war workers, and registered aliens, and of documentary and graphic material such as official ordinances, soldiers' letters, and reproductions of patriotic notices and appeals. The narrative portions are written in a spirited but not effusive style; the emphasis is upon the presentation of facts rather than upon the bestowal of credit; and events and conditions which, from a superficial point of view, might be thought to detract from the county's record of loyal service, are not ignored. Photographs distributed throughout the text are relatively small in size and, so far as they represent civilian war workers, are limited to portraits of state and local leaders. In a final section of thirty-five pages, the usual individual recognition is accorded to the service men. Unfortunately, especially in a work so packed with useful information, there is no index.

The Goodhue, Waseca, and Watonwan histories have much in common. In appearance, at least, these volumes approximate the "college annual" type of publication with its handsome binding, glossy paper, varied typography, ornamental borders, decorative backgrounds, symbolical illustrations, and prominence given to photographs of participants in the life and activities represented. In the last named respect the resemblance is perhaps most marked in the Waseca history, where an entire page is

allotted to the photographs and names of the members of each of some forty local committees and groups. There is no table of contents in any of the books, and only one, the Goodhue history, has an index. An even more serious fault is the lack of a title-page and of pagination in the Watonwan history.

About half of each volume is devoted to the soldiers. Those who lost their lives in the service are specially honored as individuals and as a group. In the Goodhue and Waseca histories the printed records of other service men average two or three short lines, but in the Watonwan history they are exceptionally full and are supplemented by intimate narratives of personal experiences contained in a section entitled "Stories from the Battle Front."

The record of local war activities is allowed proportionally equal space in two of the books, but in the third, *Goodhue County in the World War*, only one-sixth of the volume is set aside for this purpose. All three present this phase of the subject in a more or less systematically arranged series of narratives dealing severally with the work of the special war agencies such as the draft board, the American Red Cross, the War Loan Organization, and the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, and with the war activities of established institutions such as churches, schools, libraries, and newspapers. In the Watonwan history a special subdivision is devoted to individual photographs and records of some five hundred local civilian war workers. Generally speaking, accounts of the work of organizations are summary in character and are accompanied by lists of names of the officers and members of war organizations and tabulated statements of the results achieved. No important organized effort in the home community has been overlooked, except in the Goodhue history where there appears to be no mention of the work of food or of fuel conservation beyond a ten line paragraph on the "Food Conservation Advertising Committee." The amount of space allotted to the several kinds of war service varies considerably and is not always a criterion of their relative importance. In the Waseca history, for example, a total of seventy pages is devoted to accounts of "Liberty Loans," "Red Cross Activities," and "United War Workers," and only one or two each to such agencies as the draft board and the public safety

commission. Credit is generously, and in the Waseca history lavishly, bestowed upon all who participated in patriotic activities. There appears to be a tendency, least marked in the Watonwan history, to present only the brighter side of the picture. A county is indeed unique of which it can truthfully be said that "patriotism and loyalty were the two lone words in every citizen's vocabulary."

It is not surprising that none of the four pioneer works under review is altogether without defects of organization which impair its clearness, its accuracy, and its usefulness as a book of reference. The general nature of these shortcomings may perhaps be best indicated by a discussion of a tentative plan for a county war history which has been formulated as a result of a careful study of the problem as presented in the four books in hand. The reviewer hopes that the suggestions contained in this plan may be found useful by compilers of similar works. To facilitate description, let it be assumed that a history based upon this plan has actually materialized and is now under examination.

This imaginary volume is divided into four parts as follows: part one presents in narrative form the story of the war services of the county considered primarily from the point of view of the county as a whole; part two is devoted to the service records of individuals, mostly soldiers; in part three is assembled all material of a documentary or purely statistical nature; part four sets forth the personnel and organization of the various local war agencies. The four sections are clearly distinguished from one another by dividing pages and appropriate subtitles.

The story of the county's collective services is told in a series of chapters covering all phases of the subject. Considerations of chronological order, relative significance, and logical relationship govern the arrangement of the series and of the contents of the several chapters. The story opens with a survey of leading events in the European war and an account of its effects upon the sympathies and opinions of the people of the county during the period of American neutrality. Succeeding chapters entitled "The Declaration of War," "The Call to the Colors," and "County Men and Women in the Service" contain accounts of the community's first response to the call of war, of the recruiting of volunteers and the operation of the selective draft, and of the

men and women, viewed as a group, who represented the county with the armed forces of the nation. The work of three of the most important civilian organizations is then described in chapters on "The County Branch of the Public Safety Commission," "Financing the War," and "The Red Cross." The next chapter, entitled "Army and Social Welfare Work," deals with the separate and united efforts put forth in the county on behalf of the service men by the Young Men's Christian Association, Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army, and other leading welfare agencies. Similar activities designed to increase the morale of the home community are also discussed in this chapter. The state of the public mind in the early days of American participation, the educational and inspirational work of newspapers, churches, schools, America First Association, Four Minute Men, and other agencies, the loyalty issue in politics, the suppression of disloyalty, and similar topics are treated in a chapter on "The Mobilization of Public Opinion." A series of chapters follow which discuss at length the economic, agricultural, industrial, and commercial aspects of the county's war record, under the titles, "Food Conservation and Production," "The Fuel Administration," and "Industry and Commerce." The story closes with "The Return of Peace," a chapter telling of the local celebration of the signing of the armistice, the homecoming of the service men, the formation of veterans' associations, the conversion of local wartime agencies to the uses of peace, and the permanent changes wrought by the war in the life of the home community. The photographs and illustrations which accompany the narrative throughout are placed so far as possible with strict regard to their bearing upon the text. In part two of the book, the photographs and service records of individuals appear in clearly distinguished groups corresponding to the following classes of service men and war workers; men who lost their lives in the service, the boys who returned, army welfare workers and others associated with the armed forces of the country, civilians conspicuous in the war work of the home community. To facilitate the location of the record of any particular individual, the order of arrangement in each group is strictly alphabetical in accordance with the names of the persons recorded. As a safeguard against mistakes in identification the photograph and service record of each individual

are placed in exact juxtaposition or are given corresponding numbers.

Parts three and four of the volume serve to relieve the historical narrative, in part one, of a vast amount of matter which though pertinent and instructive would by reason of its form or nature seriously interrupt the thread of the narrative at frequent intervals. In part three is assembled documentary material such as soldiers' letters, citations, programs of patriotic meetings, proclamations, and resolutions, and statistical matter such as financial statements of war agencies and tabulated reports of results of the various drives. This material is arranged primarily with reference to its form. Part four is a directory of names and addresses of officers and members of committees of county and local branches of the several organizations active in war work in the county.

The volume is provided with a table of contents and an index. The latter is broadly analytical and for the most part topical in character. It includes, however, names of individuals except when the reference would be to the main alphabetical rosters of service men in part two.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

The 88th Division in the World War of 1914-1918. (New York, Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Company, 1919. 236 p. Illustrations.)

The Eighty-eighth Division contained a large quota of drafted men from Minnesota and many of its officers, including its first assignment of junior officers, received military training as members of the first two reserve officer's training camps at Fort Snelling. Consequently, a history of the division is a significant addition to the ever increasing printed record of Minnesota's part in the World War. The arrangement of the present volume follows a form which has already become conventional in the writing of such histories. After all, these accounts must be similar, since the experiences of nearly every division or unit which reached France are typical of the story of the entire American Expeditionary Force. This limitation becomes less serious when viewed in the light of the comparatively small number of readers of a

history of any one unit. Even if it has literary merit, such a book can scarcely be of general interest; it is significant only to the members of that unit, to their acquaintances, or, as is here the case, to the inhabitants of the locality from which a majority of the combatants originally came. While a list of the soldiers of the Eighty-eighth Division who were cited for bravery (pp. 68-75) is of vital interest to Minnesotans it can have but slight meaning for the inhabitants of Louisiana or of Pennsylvania.

This volume is divided into two principal parts, the first devoted to a narrative account of the experiences of the division, the second to a roster or "complete list of every officer and man who served with the 88th Division in the A. E. F." The narrative, in turn, is divided into three parts, each of which deals with one of the broad periods in the history of the division as follows: (1) organization and training in the United States, (2) training and active service in France, (3) events subsequent to the signing of the armistice. The scene of the opening period was Camp Dodge. The story of the conversion of the camping ground of the Iowa National Guard into a fully equipped cantonment with all the conveniences and facilities of a city, of the organization there of the various units of the division under the direction of Major General Edward H. Plummer, and of the arrival at the post of thousands of drafted men from Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and Illinois, is one that is typical of the occurrences during the summer of 1917 in fifteen similar camps throughout the United States. The brief space devoted to this tale of vast achievement perhaps helps to impress upon the reader the speed with which it was accomplished. Training the men who came "from their comfortable homes, most of them without any conception of military life," and transporting them to France was a longer process; therefore this portion of the division's experience is described at greater length. The most extensive chapter of the narrative deals with the few weeks from October 18 to November 11, 1918, the time when the events for which the division had been training during more than a year took place, the period of active service in France. This discussion is preceded by a concise outline of the life of Major General William Weigel, the man who successfully guided the

division through the great crisis of its existence. "After the Armistice" is the title of the third main division. Herein the tale of the dreary months of waiting to return to the United States, which has been told by thousands of Americans who served in France, is repeated.

The coöperation of a group of officers in the preparation of the narrative is doubtless responsible for the publication therein of some interesting official orders and records. One of these, for example, is the secret field order directing "the distribution of troops under the first allotment of positions" when the division made its initial appearance in the trenches (p. 42). The volume is attractively bound and excellently illustrated with photographs of officers and men and of the localities through which they passed in their travels here and abroad.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

Granville: Tales and Tail Spins from a Flyer's Diary. (New York and Cincinnati, The Abingdon Press, 1919. 176 p. Illustrations.)

Books and pamphlets relating to the World War are now appearing with bewildering rapidity. There are histories of divisions and of smaller units, narratives of the actual experiences of soldiers and newspaper correspondents, reports of the several war agencies, and stories based on fact or fiction. Among these works are to be noted the compilations of letters and diaries of soldiers. To this latter class belongs *Granville*. Dedicated to the "memory of Granville and to the thousands who helped to win the war on this side" it is a record of the service rendered to his country by Granville Gutterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Gutterson of St. Paul.

Granville was a member of the Aviation Corps of the United States Army. Because of his proficiency he was commissioned a second lieutenant and sent as an instructor to the San Leon Gunnery School, where, much to his regret, he spent most of the period of the war. The armistice was signed just as he was about to embark from New York. Shortly afterward he returned to Texas where he succumbed to pneumonia.

The first and shorter part of the book is composed of a part of Granville's letters written to his family from the training camp

at Austin, Texas, where he was a student, and from Houston. These letters serve as an introduction to his diary, which does not begin until August 31, 1918, and they clearly reveal the character of the writer. That they are not as detailed as others that have been made public, can probably be explained by the fact that the writer was going through the grilling and strenuous training of a student aviator who in three months must master the work of one year. They are filled with short scenes of camp life and experiences. One letter in particular is worthy of attention. It contains advice to his father on how to welcome the stranger in khaki—advice which will be keenly appreciated by any former service man.

The second part, the diary, is especially interesting. Here the reader finds the "Granny" so well liked by his associates emerging from the account of his experiences, hopes, and disappointments. Here, too, are portrayed the work and play in the life of an officer in camp and the agreeable and disagreeable sides of an instructor's duties. Written in a simple, straightforward manner, the diary records the impressions and stray thoughts of the moment and treats of the serious and amusing incidents of a soldier's daily life.

The greater part of the story relates to the writer's hopes and disappointments with reference to his overwhelming ambition to reach France and get into active service. There is hardly a letter or a notation in the diary which does not have some allusion to his chance to "get across." His comments after many failures to secure the coveted overseas assignment are typical: "If Uncle Sammy won't let me go across, I'll have to get married to make me feel right about it. I'd a helluva lot rather go across though." "Boy, I wouldn't have the face to face anyone after this mess is cleaned up and admit that I, a single man with no one dependent on me, had been an instructor . . . while married men or men with dependents had 'gone West,' doing my work in France."

The value of this book lies in the fact that it contains the letters and diary of a soldier who typifies the highest ideals of American manhood. One cannot read it without feeling proud that this soldier was a fellow citizen.

CECIL W. SHIRK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The stated meeting of the executive council on October 13, furnished the occasion for the reading of two interesting papers on comparatively recent subjects in Minnesota history. These were "The Last Indian Uprising in the United States (Leech Lake, Minnesota, 1898)," by Lieutenant Commander Louis H. Roddis of the medical corps of the United States Navy, and "Recruiting Engineers for the World War in Minnesota," by George W. McCree, who was civilian aid to the adjutant general of the United States during the war.

Three organizations have held meetings in the auditorium recently: the Minnesota society, Sons of the American Revolution, September 18; the Lyndale Reading Circle of Minneapolis, October 7; and the Merriam Park Woman's Club of St. Paul, October 29. At the last two of these meetings the work of the society's museum was explained by the curator, Mr. Babcock.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending October 31, 1919: Bertha L. Heilbron of St. Paul; C. Ernest Lagerstrom and Andrew J. Lobb of Minneapolis; J. Anton Ochs and Richard Pfefferle of New Ulm; Frank M. Kaisersatt of Faribault; Leland S. Stallings of Breckenridge; Ida A. Kovisto of Wadena; George L. Treat of Alexandria; and William K. Coffin of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Deaths during the same period include those of one active member, George Reis of Los Angeles, California, October 4; and one corresponding member, General Philip Reade of Boston, Massachusetts, October 21. The deaths of the Reverend William DeLoss Love of Hartford, Connecticut, April 8, 1918, and Charles Conrad Abbott of Bristol, Pennsylvania, July 17, 1919, both corresponding members, have not heretofore been noted in the BULLETIN.

An instance of the value of the society's library to the state was afforded recently in connection with the case between Minnesota and Wisconsin in the United States Supreme Court over the location of the boundary line in Duluth Harbor. This case involved historical questions as to what had been looked upon in the past as the mouth of the St. Louis River and also what had been the principal route of navigation through the waters of St. Louis Bay. The Wisconsin attorneys included in their brief a very elaborate discussion of this subject with references to a great many books and documents, and it was necessary for the Minnesota attorneys to check over this material and locate additional evidence on the subject if possible. Practically all the books and documents needed for this work were found to be available in the library of the society.

Some progress was made during the summer in the work of sorting and disposing of duplicate material in the library. About two thousand volumes of supposedly duplicate congressional documents were checked over with a view to replacing imperfect copies and filling in gaps in the classified sets. What were left were then offered as gifts to various Minnesota libraries with the result, so far, that 617 volumes have been taken by the library of Carleton College, 65 by the Minneapolis Public Library, 33 by the library of the Macalester College, and 15 by the Minnesota State Library. Of miscellaneous duplicate books about a thousand were sorted, checked, and listed so that they can now be offered to other libraries in exchange for their duplicates. Thousands of documents of states other than Minnesota were also sorted and checked over preliminary to classification, and about 1,300 of these documents which proved to be duplicates or outside the society's fields of collection were turned over to the state library to help fill in its incomplete sets.

Most of the cases in the east hall of the museum are being used at present for an exhibition of World War objects. The Backus collection illustrating the activities of an aviator, material brought back from France by Colonel Leach, articles made by wounded soldiers at Fort Snelling, and military badges used by various British regiments are included in the exhibition.

The number of visitors to the museum during fair week was 2,846 by actual count. This is an average of 569 a day for five days, for the building was closed on Monday—Labor Day.

From the opening of the schools in September until November 1, the museum was visited by nine classes totalling 343 pupils.

In response to numerous requests the history hours in the museum, which were suspended during the summer, have been resumed. On Saturday, October 11, about one hundred children listened to a talk on the Red River cart as an aid to the settlement of the Northwest. One hundred and eighty children from thirty-five schools, including a delegation from the Seward School in Minneapolis, responded to the second invitation, for the talk on the fur trade on October 25. These history hours are to be held throughout the winter on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at three o'clock. They are intended for children in the grades from the fourth to the eighth, inclusive.

The personnel of the staff changed somewhat during the quarter ending October 31. The position of curator of the museum, made vacant September 1 by the resignation of Miss Ruth O. Roberts, was filled by the transfer of Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., who had previously held the position of editorial assistant. The vacancy thus created in the editorial division was filled by the appointment of Miss Bertha L. Heilbron. Miss Emma M. Larson became reference assistant September 24 in the place of Miss Dora C. Jett, whose resignation took effect August 15; and Miss Olive J. Clark succeeds Mrs. Rose M. Dunlap as museum assistant November 1.

GIFTS

A collection of about twenty-five letters written, with a few exceptions, by the Reverend Richard Hall, a well-known pioneer missionary of the Congregational church in Minnesota, has been presented by his nephew, Mr. Grosvenor Buck of St. Paul. Hall came to Minnesota in 1850 and for a number of years served as

pastor of a church at Point Douglas and preached in various surrounding communities. From 1856 to 1874 he was superintendent of the American Home Missionary Society for Minnesota. The most valuable of the letters are those written in Point Douglas and St. Paul in the fifties and sixties, which relate interesting incidents of pioneer days and contain information about frontier living conditions and the early history of Congregational missions in the state. A trip on the frozen river from Point Douglas to St. Paul is described in a letter of 1861, and the missionary complains of the high cost of living in a letter of 1864, when wood sold for between six and seven dollars a cord and oats for eighty cents a bushel. Three journals of Hall's missionary correspondence were deposited with the society shortly after his death in 1907.

A series of eight account books kept in New York in the first decades of the nineteenth century have been presented by Professor Thomas G. Lee of the University of Minnesota. The accounts are largely those of the general store of Robert T. Shaw, though one appears to be a doctor's ledger with entries covering the years from 1828 to 1834, when doctors made calls for twenty-five and fifty cents, dispensed "liniment" at fifteen cents a bottle and pills for one cent each, and extracted teeth at the bargain price of eighteen and three-fourths cents. A set of apothecary's scales of the type used in pioneer drug stores, two foot stoves, and a silver caster have also been received from Dr. Lee.

Three letters of special interest have been donated by Mrs. Fred A. Bill of St. Paul. Two of these were written by the brothers Joseph and Thomas McMaster in the early winter of 1856 from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Read's Landing, Minnesota, respectively. They discuss, aside from family affairs, a projected printing establishment at Read's Landing to be set up by Joseph McMaster with the help of William R. Marshall, afterwards governor of the state, and other interested parties. The third letter was written by Stuart Cherry, a writing master in the Collegiate Institute of Liverpool, to Mrs. William C. McMaster at Read's Landing in August, 1861, and discusses the attitude of the English toward the Civil War in America.

Miss Helen Castle has recently presented some papers of her father's, the late Captain Henry A. Castle of St. Paul and expects to turn over additional papers at some future time.

A group of records of missionary societies of the Presbyterian church in Minnesota presented by Mrs. Julius E. Miner of Minneapolis includes the minutes of the Woman's Synodical Society of Home Missions of Minnesota, from 1900 to 1916, and records of the Home Missionary Society of Westminster Church, Minneapolis, from 1883 to 1895.

A small collection of papers and two record books of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Paul covering the years 1872 to 1894 has been deposited in the society's manuscript collection by Mr. Benjamin O. Chapman, an official of the House of Hope Church.

Miss Alta H. Merritt of St. Paul has presented a series of letters written by her brother, Glenn J. Merritt of Duluth, while he was on duty with a Harvard ambulance unit in the World War. The letters reflect the experiences of the writer in the training camp in this country and in the work of relief at the front in France and Italy. They are accompanied by a very fine collection of pictures taken by Mr. Merritt, which illustrate further this branch of Red Cross service.

A United States land patent issued to William Prichard in 1857 for a tract of land in the Red Wing district, Minnesota Territory, has been received from Edward A. Bromley of Minneapolis. This patent is especially interesting because it illustrates the time honored practice of drawing upon the public domain for military bounties. It was issued in exchange for a land warrant in favor of Levi P. Henry, a veteran of the "Florida War," the warrant having been assigned to Prichard, who "located" it upon the land covered by the patent.

A valuable addition to the material concerning the Sully expedition of 1864 has recently been received from Mr. D. J. Dodge of Minneapolis. This is a blue print copy of a manuscript map showing the route traveled by this expedition from Fort Ridgely

to the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. The map also indicates the point where Captain Fiske's company was rescued from an attack by the Indians. The original was drawn in 1864 by James S. Stoddard of Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry.

The original document of the "Greetings from the Norwegian Storting to the Minnesota Legislature," dated July 15, 1919, which was delivered by the Honorable Edward Indrehus of Foley to the Minnesota House of Representatives, September 15, 1919, has been turned over to the society for preservation.

The presidential campaign of 1912 is the subject of a collection of newspaper clippings and cartoons recently presented to the society by Mr. William W. Cutler of St. Paul. The collection was made by his sister, Miss Ruth Cutler, who died in Paris in the winter of 1918, while in the service of the American Red Cross. The clippings, which have been taken almost exclusively from the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, are arranged under the four headings of candidates, state primaries, campaign issues, and miscellaneous, while the candidates in turn are grouped by political parties. Of special interest are the cartoons included in the collection.

Mrs. Charles P. Noyes has presented to the society a copy of a work entitled *A Family History in Letters and Documents, 1667-1837* (St. Paul, 1919. 2v.), which she has compiled and had printed for private distribution. It is concerned with the forefathers of Mrs. Noyes's parents, Winthrop Sargent Gilman and Abia Swift Lippincott, and contains a mass of carefully edited material of great value to the student of social and economic conditions. Photostatic copies of the original manuscripts of some of the documents printed in the volume have also been presented by Mrs. Noyes.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Oliver S. Morris, editor of the *Nonpartisan Leader*, the society has received a back file of this publication from its beginning on September 23, 1915, to the end of 1917, from which time copies have been received regularly as issued. The file, therefore, is now complete from the beginning.

Many of the back numbers are exceedingly scarce and Mr. Morris went to considerable trouble and expense and exhausted almost every resource to collect them all. The *Nonpartisan Leader* is the official organ of the National Nonpartisan League, with headquarters in St. Paul, and a file of the paper will be indispensable to the future students of the history of the Northwest during recent years.

Gifts of books, pamphlets, and periodical files received during the quarter ending October 31, include, besides numerous single items, considerable collections from Mr. John R. Swan of Madison, Mrs. Charles W. Bunn of St. Paul, the Oakland Cemetery Association of St. Paul, and several departments of the state government.

The most notable collection of museum material relating to the World War as yet received is that brought back from France by the 151st United States Field Artillery and recently deposited with the society by Colonel Leach, the commanding officer of the regiment. It includes a German anti-tank gun, German body armor which is strikingly similar to that worn by the medieval knights, machine guns, trench catapults, torpedo flares, helmets, mustard gas shells, and other items too numerous to mention. Colonel Leach expects to add to the collection from time to time.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton J. Backus of St. Paul have deposited in the museum a large collection of World War specimens assembled by their sons Clinton and David, both of whom were aviators with the American Expeditionary Force in France.

Captain George R. G. Fisher of St. Paul, who was in charge of the Red Cross work in Winchester, England, during the war, has deposited with the society his valuable collection of the badges and insignia worn by British regiments in which Americans served. Coldstreams, Grenadier Guards, Scots Greys, and many other famous old regiments as well as newer special organizations are represented.

Mr. Robert L. Schofield of Tacoma, Washington, has deposited with the society an extensive collection of museum objects illus-

trating early American domestic life. Mr. Schofield's grandfather, Dr. John L. Schofield, was one of the first settlers of Northfield, Minnesota, and many of the specimens were used in the old home there.

Colonel Jeremiah C. Donahower of St. Paul has added to his many gifts to the society an interesting old photograph of a train of Red River carts, taken about 1857 at the corner of Third and Washington streets, St. Paul, and a number of medals, badges, and coins of historic interest.

From the Honorable Elmer E. Adams of Fergus Falls, the society has received a number of panorama views of that city taken just after the cyclone of last June.

A war club said to have been used by Sitting Bull at the time of the Custer massacre, a model of a Sioux tipi, a bead chain, and specimens of Indian work in birchbark are recent gifts from Mr. Charles M. Loring of Minneapolis.

An old-fashioned clock, manufactured in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1841, is a gift from Mr. Lee E. Edson of Austin.

Portraits in pastel of Mr. and Mrs. John Eastman, who were pioneers in St. Anthony, have been added to the society's collection of pictures of the early settlers by Mrs. Mary Greenlaw of Minneapolis.

A large framed lithograph of St. Paul in 1867 with the streets and important buildings named has been presented to the society by Mrs. Sidora A. Bourne of St. Paul.

NEWS AND COMMENT

When the first American expedition to Minnesota was making its way up the Mississippi above the falls of St. Anthony in October, 1805, and had reached a point about four miles below the site of Little Falls, the commander, Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, decided to leave part of his men and equipment there in winter quarters. Consequently a stockade about thirty-six feet square with blockhouses at two corners was erected on the west bank of the Mississippi near the mouth of Swan River. Three quarters of a century later, in 1880, the site of this stockade was located by Judge Nathan Richardson of Little Falls, who was writing a history of the county, and in 1894 the location was verified by Dr. Elliot Coues, who was then engaged in preparing his edition of Pike's *Expeditions*. Dr. Coues urged that the site be marked and some time thereafter this was done by means of the inscription "Pike's Fort Built 1805" carved on a boulder. Recently the Daughters of the American Revolution took steps to secure the erection of an appropriate monument to mark the site. An old fireplace was found still intact and this together with the old marker was incorporated in a monument in the shape of a pyramid in which was embedded a bronze tablet bearing the following inscription: "These assembled stones formed the chimney of the first block house built in what is now known as Minnesota, in October, 1805, by Lieut. Zebulon Montgomery Pike, explorer and surveyor of the Louisiana Purchase. The place is marked by the citizens of Little Falls and by the Daughters of the American Revolution in appreciation of this service, September 27th, 1919." At the dedication exercises, Mrs. James T. Morris, state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution told the story of Pike's expedition and Mr. Lyman Ayer unveiled the monument. The newspaper articles occasioned by the erection and dedication of this monument almost invariably state that the structure erected by Pike was the "first house" in Minnesota and refer to Mr. Ayer as the "first white child born in Minnesota." In the interests of historical accuracy it should be said that houses had

been erected in Minnesota by French and British fur traders many years before 1805 and that a number of white children had been born at Fort Snelling prior to the birth of Lyman Ayer at the Pokegama Mission in 1834.

The annual convention of the Society of American Indians was held in Minneapolis on October 2, 3, and 4. Representatives of the various North American tribes who were present included Dr. Charles A. Eastman, a Minnesota Sioux who is the author of numerous books relating to the history and life of his race; Dr. Carlos Montezuma, a Chicago physician of note; and Miss Gertrude Bonnin, an author and musician. In connection with the convention Dr. Eastman's pageant, "The Conspiracy of Pontiac," was presented, the author playing the part of Pontiac. In an article entitled "The Melting Pot and the Indians," the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 5, points out the Indians' contributions to American life and the distinguishing characteristics of members of the various tribes who attended the convention.

On October 7 the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers joined with the Pioneer Rivermen's Association, the St. Croix Valley Old Settlers' Association, and other organizations in a great celebration at Taylor's Falls. The occasion was the one hundredth birthday of John Daubney who came to Minnesota in 1845 and who is today the sole surviving member of the Minnesota Old Settlers' Association, an organization of pioneers who were of age and were residents of Minnesota on January 1, 1850. A banquet served at the Dalles House, one of the oldest structures in Taylor's Falls, and speeches by Minnesota pioneers recalling incidents of historical interest in Mr. Daubney's long career as a Minnesotan were features of the celebration.

The forty-fifth annual meeting of the St. Croix Valley Old Settlers' Association was held in Stillwater on September 17.

The articles on Minnesota, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth in the new edition of the *Encyclopedia Americana*, now in process of publication, are by E. Dudley Parsons. The first of these, which may be found in volume 19 (1919), contains a surprisingly

large number of erroneous and misleading statements. The point where the eastern boundary of the state leaves the St. Croix river is not "the western bend" of that stream, and the line does not run north "until it strikes the extreme western end of Lake Superior." The statement that "With the exception of a short portage the way from Lake Superior to the Red River was open along the northern boundary" would be nearer the truth if the Lake of the Woods were substituted for the Red River. The modest statement that "There are over a thousand lakes in the State" ought to be of interest to the Ten Thousand Lakes Association of Minnesota. The reader's surprise at learning that "the state has been remarkably free from destructive storms" becomes astonishment when he discovers that "In Minnesota are found all the plants and animals of the north temperate zone." After observing that, according to the table of agricultural statistics, the number of farms in the state was exactly the same in 1917 as it had been in 1910, one is inclined to doubt the accuracy of the figures which show that from 1910 to 1917 the number of swine declined almost fifty per cent and the number of sheep over 60 per cent.

The section of the article headed "History" opens with the unqualified statement that Radisson and Grossileurs [*sic!*] "made treaties with the Dakota and Chippewa Indians in 1656 and 1659." It is true that some investigators interpret the scanty evidence to indicate that these men were in the upper Mississippi country in 1656, but one wonders on whose behalf they "made treaties" and what were the terms of those documents. Carver's journey up the Minnesota did not extend "nearly to its source." It is stated that "Upon the purchase of Louisiana, which included Minnesota west of the Mississippi, the eastern part belonging first to Michigan, then to Wisconsin, the United States government determined to explore the territory." The difficulty here may be lack of clearness rather than actual misstatement. At any rate, the facts are as follows: at the time of the purchase of Louisiana, the eastern part of Minnesota was nominally included within Indiana Territory, having previously been a part of the Northwest Territory. Later it was included in Illinois Territory and not until 1818 did it become a part of Michigan. The explorations of Beltrami and Long occurred in 1823, and not,

therefore, "a little later" than Schoolcraft's discovery of Lake Itasca in 1832.

In the article on Minneapolis, Minnehaha is translated "Curling Water," although the unsigned article on Minnehaha Falls on the same page gives the translation correctly "laughing water." The date of the government sawmill at St. Anthony Falls is given as 1823, although the correct date, 1821, appears in the article on Minnesota. This mill was not used for grinding flour, but a separate flour mill was erected in 1823. The statistics in the article on the Minnesota Historical Society are very much out of date, having been gathered, apparently, about six years ago, and the society's new building is not mentioned. An unsigned article on the Red River of the North in volume 23 contains the surprising statement that "The Red River is connected with the Mississippi through its southern branch, Lake Traverse, and the Minnesota River. At high water small steamers can pass from the Red River to the Mississippi." The only foundation for this statement is the fact that perhaps once in a generation a flood makes it possible for a rowboat to pass between the two water systems.

The 1918 number of *Acta Et Dicta*, the publication of the Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul, which has just appeared, is accompanied by a statement that the 1919 number may be expected before the end of the year. From the viewpoint of the student of Minnesota history, "Notes on the History of the Diocese of Duluth," by the Reverend Patrick J. Lydon, is perhaps the most valuable article in the present issue. This outline of the work of the Catholic church in northeastern Minnesota includes a discussion of the Catholic missionaries to the Indians beginning with 1852; the story of the establishment of the diocese of Duluth; the brief history of each Catholic parish, society, and institution in the city of Duluth; and brief historical sketches of all other parishes within the diocese. Although the author presents a comprehensive discussion of his subject in convenient form, he is not always historically accurate, for he makes the statement that Father Francis Pirz "was the only Indian missionary in Minnesota" in 1852 (p. 239). Perhaps the author neglected to include the word "Catholic," since he must be aware

that at this time Protestant missionaries had been working among the Minnesota Indians for nearly twenty years. This number of *Acta Et Dicta* contains the third installment of Archbishop John Ireland's "Life of the Rt. Rev. Joseph Cretin, First Bishop of the Diocese of St. Paul." The chapters herein published deal with Cretin's farewell to France, his voyage from Havre to New York, and his trip thence by railroad, canal, and river to St. Louis. They are based upon the pioneer bishop's diary of his journey which is in the form of letters to his sister. His description of traveling conditions and detailed records of his first impressions of New York and the American people make intensely interesting reading. "In Memoriam—Right Reverend James McGolrick," is a valuable supplement to the notes on the Duluth diocese, since the subject was the first Bishop of Duluth. An article on "The Beginning and Growth of the Catholic Church in the State of Montana" is contributed by the Reverend Cyril Pauwelyn, and the completion of half a century of good work is commemorated in "The House of the Good Shepherd in St. Paul, A Retrospect of Fifty Years." "Contemporary Items" and "Obituary Notices" appear as formerly, but the usual section devoted to documents is omitted.

The *North Star*, a monthly magazine published in Minneapolis, is running a series of articles by Theodore C. Blegen relating to the history of Norwegian immigration to America. The October number contains the first installment of "Ole Rynning and the America Book," which is largely based on the translation, with introduction, by Mr. Blegen of Rynning's work in the *BULLETIN* for November, 1917. "There are some new matters brought out, especially by way of comment and interpretation, and in the comparison of the early books on Norse immigration."

Two accounts of the activities of Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer of St. Paul in promoting the woman suffrage movement during more than half a century appear in the *St. Paul Daily News* for August 31 and November 16. Since 1901 Mrs. Farmer has had charge of the press work for the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association. Although now eighty-four years of age, she is participating in the work of the League of Women Voters.

The history of the lumber milling industry in Minneapolis is well outlined in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 19. Lumber milling has been a phase in the industrial development of most American communities where forests and water power have been found side by side. As the forests have disappeared, however, the mills have been removed to the more remote, unexploited districts. After nearly a century of development, the history of the lumber industry around St. Anthony Falls closed in September when the last Minneapolis sawmill, that of the Northland Pine Company, ceased to operate. The center of the Minnesota lumbering business has shifted to the northern part of the state. A number of excellent illustrations, one of which shows a series of log marks, accompany the article.

Captain George B. Merrick's "Steamboats and Steamboatmen of the Upper Mississippi: Descriptive, Personal and Historical," the greater portion of which is published in the issues of the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, from September, 1913 (see *ante*, 1:72) to November, 1918, is now being concluded in that paper. In this work the names of all steamboats that have "floated up on the waters of the upper river" are listed in alphabetical order and each name is accompanied by a brief historical sketch, which often includes interesting anecdotes and biographical notes on old rivermen. Captain Merrick, who had been compiling records for this work for thirty years, had nearly completed the accounts of the boats beginning with the letter *t*, when he was stricken with an illness which for the time rendered him incapable of continuing the task. The assistance of Captain Fred A. Bill of St. Paul, however, has enabled the author to resume the work, and the first of the new installments appears in the *Post* for September 27. Most of the boats listed plied the waters of the Mississippi within the area of Minnesota; thus the record is a valuable contribution to the history of the state.

The "Reminiscences" of Dr. Cyrus Northrop, president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, are being published serially in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*. The first installment, in the issue of October 27, presents an interesting picture of rural New England before the Civil War and induces anticipation of

valuable contributions to Minnesota history in later installments. It is to be hoped that the "Reminiscences" will ultimately appear in book form.

In the section entitled "State Builders of the West," the issues of the *Western Magazine* for August and September contain sketches of "Andrew Ryan McGill, Tenth Governor of Minnesota," and of "William Rush Merriam, Eleventh Governor of Minnesota."

Warren Upham of the Minnesota Historical Society staff is the author of a series of nine "brief articles dealing with the early history of Minnesota, covering a period of 30 years from 1805." They are published weekly under the heading, "Little Journeys Through Early Minnesota History," in the Sunday editions of the *Minneapolis Journal* beginning July 27 and ending September 21. Seven of the papers deal with the explorations of such men as Pike, Long, and Schoolcraft; the remaining two treat of the founding of Fort Snelling. Such papers are of very real value in familiarizing the public with the work of the men who first ventured into the unknown wilds of what is today the state of Minnesota. Mr. Upham not only summarizes the explorations of these men but also presents sketches of their lives and extracts from their journals and diaries. A basis for further study on the part of the interested reader is provided in the bibliographical material contained in the articles.

An article entitled "General Zebulon M. Pike, Somerset Born," by William J. Backes, in the *Somerset County* [New Jersey] *Historical Quarterly* for October contains detailed information about the family of this leader of the first American exploring expedition in Minnesota and discusses at length the question of his birthplace. The author concludes that General Pike was born at Lamberton, now Lamington, in Somerset County, New Jersey, and not in the Lamberton which is now a part of the city of Trenton.

Two pages of the *Minneapolis Journal* for Sunday, September 21, are devoted to extracts from Mrs. Elizabeth F. L. Ellet's *Summer Rambles in the West* descriptive of the Twin City region

in 1852. The extracts are sufficiently interesting in themselves to have justified their reprinting without giving the impression that the work from which they are taken was practically unknown prior to the recent discovery of a copy in a distant state by a resident of Minneapolis. As a matter of fact there are numerous copies of the book in the public and private libraries of the Twin Cities and it is well known to bibliophiles and students of western history. The article is accompanied by illustrations which purport to be pictures of Minnehaha Creek in 1832, St. Anthony and the falls about 1852, a Red River ox cart, Colonel John H. Stevens, Joseph R. Brown, and the house in which the book was found. The ox cart shown in the picture resembles only remotely the genuine Red River cart in the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society.

"When Treadmill Was a Marvel Minnesota Held First State Fair at Old Fort Snelling," is the title of an interesting article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 31. A privately planned and managed fair had been held in 1859 on an open field now within the city limits of Minneapolis, but Minnesotans first exhibited the fruits of their labors under the supervision of the state at Fort Snelling in 1860. Those visitors who resided east of the Mississippi reached the fair grounds by means of a ferry, a picture of which accompanies the article. Another illustration shows the exhibition grounds, the buildings, and the crowd in attendance.

An addition to the ever increasing list of tales of the Sioux massacre is "An Interesting Narrative on the Reign of Terror During 1862," by Hiram E. Hoard, which appears in the *Montevideo News* for August 28. The account of the way in which General Sibley secured the voluntary surrender of the hostile Indians at Camp Release, thereby saving the lives of many of his men and of the captives held by the Indians, is based on statements made by Sibley to the writer. Mr. Hoard also tells how a group of Montevideo citizens, of which he was a member, obtained from the state legislature the funds necessary for the purchase of Sibley's old camp ground at Camp Release and the erection of a monument thereon.

A reminiscent narrative of unusual interest is that of Ingeborg Monsen published in the October issue of *Lindberg's National Farmer*. It portrays the conditions in Norway in the middle of the nineteenth century which furnished the background for much of the immigration from that country to the United States, and relates the author's experiences as the wife of a homesteader in Grant County, Minnesota. These experiences throw light on economic and political conditions on the frontier during the Granger and Populist periods.

"A Reporter's Reminiscences of Roosevelt" is the title of an interesting article by George E. Akerson in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 26. It recounts the great American's visits to Minnesota from the fall of 1910, when he spoke before the conservation congress then in session in the St. Paul auditorium, to his last address in Minneapolis in October, 1918, only three months before his death.

A group of articles in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 12, call attention to the remarkable manner in which the cities of northern Minnesota were rebuilt during the year following the terrible forest fire which devastated the entire region.

The Fort Snelling centenary is commemorated in an article by Warren Upham of the Minnesota Historical Society staff in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 10. It consists of an account of the founding of the first military post in Minnesota by Colonel Henry Leavenworth and his troops, based upon the journal of Major Thomas Forsyth the Indian agent who accompanied the expedition, and of a resumé of the work of Colonel Josiah Snelling for whom the fort was named. An excellent group of pictures representing early structures at the fort and portraits of the individuals who figured in the first years of its history illustrate the article.

Another article by Mr. Upham, in the *Pioneer Press* for August 17, has for its subject Kaposia, the village of Little Crow, which for a number of years after 1820 "stood on the site of St. Paul's depot." Quotations from the writings of Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, Major Thomas Forsyth, Henry R. Schoolcraft,

William H. Keating, and Charles J. Latrobe, all of whom noted the village in accounts of expeditions to the upper Mississippi, are cited. Although the situation of Kaposia was changed several times and its last location was on the west bank of the river near the present site of South St. Paul, Mr. Upham takes the position that "it may be regarded as the precursor of the city of St. Paul, having been placed temporarily near the center of this city's area at the time of the 1820 and 1823 expeditions."

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of October 19 contains a sketch of the movement for the consolidation of the various organizations representing civic and business interests in St. Paul which began in 1910 and culminated in 1916 in the establishment of the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs.

"Benjamin Backnumber," whose articles on "St. Paul Before This" were published in the *St. Paul Daily News* for about two years beginning with February 26, 1911, has reappeared with a second series in the Sunday issues of the same paper beginning September 14. Some of these reminiscences of early life in St. Paul are of value to the student of local history. To this category belongs the paper on "'Pig's Eye' and Phalen Creek" in the issue for September 21, which explains the origins of the names of these localities. The work of Harriet E. Bishop, who established the first St. Paul school, is the subject of the article for September 28. A discussion of "The Palmy Days of Steamboating," in which the development of river transportation and its effect on the city's growth is treated, appears on October 5, and an enumeration of "The First Storekeepers," on October 26.

A pageant, "The Spirit of Democracy," was presented by the St. Paul clubs of the War Camp Community Service at Phalen Park on August 28. The main episodes in American history were depicted on the bank of one of the canals which connect the chain of lakes. The scene which typified the life of the period of the Revolution was staged by local members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

An article reminiscent of the early days of Minneapolis appeared in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for September 21, in com-

memoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. William W. Folwell's arrival in Minnesota to become the first president of the university. Dr. Folwell celebrated the occasion by locating on the present university campus the site of the Cheever tower, from which many a visitor to old St. Anthony obtained his first view of the falls. A picture of the old tower accompanies the article.

The history of the Central Baptist Church of Minneapolis, 1870 to 1918, is briefly recorded in a booklet which appeared "in connection with the recent merging of Central church with Calvary church" (Minneapolis, 1918. 30 p.). The booklet is illustrated with pictures of the buildings of the church and with portraits of its pastors and leaders.

The *Albert Lea Community Magazine*, a monthly, the first number of which appeared in June, is an interesting experiment in the periodical field. That the cultivation of interest in and knowledge of local history is an effective means of promoting community spirit, which is one of the objects of the magazine, has been recognized, to some extent, by the editors. The August number contains an article by Warren Upham, entitled "Freeborn County 84 Years Ago," which tells the story of the exploring expedition of 1835, of which Lieutenant Colonel Stephen W. Kearney was the commander and Lieutenant Albert M. Lea the chronicler, and also gives information about the origin of place names in the county. Two other articles which should be noted are "Some Truths about the 'Y' in France," by the Reverend Mark G. Paulsen of Albert Lea, in the July number, and "Red Cross Home Service," by H. S. Spencer, the secretary of the Freeborn County chapter, in the September number. It is to be hoped that space will be found in future issues for the publication of old letters, diaries, reminiscences, and other historical material of local interest.

The history of White Bear village is the subject of a sketch in the *St. Paul Daily News* for August 31.

A communication urging the necessity of the construction of a national archives building was sent by the acting secretary of

the treasury of the United States to the speaker of the House of Representatives on August 22. From this letter, which has been published (66 Congress, 1 session, *House Documents*, no. 200), it appears that "papers of inestimable value are now stored in numerous out-of-the-way and inaccessible places, some being in Government buildings not adequately protected from fire and others stored in rented quarters, where frequently there is far less security from fire or destruction in other ways than in the attics of Government buildings." A tentative location for the building has been selected and appropriations of \$486,000 for the site and \$1,500,000 for the building are recommended.

The *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September contains three papers which were read at the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in St. Louis in May: the presidential address, "Western Travel," by Harlow Lindley; "The United States Factory System for Trading with the Indians, 1798-1822," by Royal B. Way; and "A Frontier Officer's Military Order Book," by Louis Pelzer. The last, which is in the "Notes and Documents" section, relates to the military orders of Colonel Henry Dodge from 1832 to 1836 and presents interesting sidelights on conditions in the frontier army at this time. Other articles in this number of the *Review* are "The French Council of Commerce in Relation to American Trade," by Ella Lonn, and the annual sketch of "Historical Activities in Canada, 1918-1919," by Lawrence J. Burpee.

The *Quarterly Journal* of the New York State Historical Association is the latest recruit to the ranks of state historical periodicals, the first number bearing the date, October, 1919. The editors have paid a high compliment to the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN by modeling their publication upon it to a considerable extent.

A controversy over the scope of the publications of the Wisconsin Historical Society and other matters relating to the conduct of that institution led to an investigation of its affairs by a special joint committee of the last legislature. The report of the committee presented in June contains a striking apprecia-

tion of the society, which concludes as follows: "The committee does not hesitate to say that every member thereof was not only profoundly impressed but actually amazed to find it such a big, comprehensive, serviceable, and helpful institution in which the state may take intense pride and the committee hopes that every citizen of the state may find opportunity to visit the library and see from a personal inspection what a wonderful institution Wisconsin possesses in its State Historical Society." It is interesting to note that at the conclusion of the investigation both of the senators on the committee took out memberships in the society.

The article of most interest to Minnesotans in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for September is one entitled "The Competition of the Northwestern States for Emigrants," by Theodore C. Blegen. This deals with the official activities of Wisconsin and more briefly of the neighboring states including Minnesota in the period after 1850.

The centennial of the founding of Fort Atkinson, the first fort and white settlement in Nebraska, was celebrated at the village of Fort Calhoun near Omaha, on October 11. The exercises consisted of a number of addresses in the forenoon, a basket picnic dinner, and a pageant in the afternoon and were attended by about six thousand people.

WAR HISTORY ACTIVITIES

The most significant recent development in the work of the Minnesota War Records Commission is the adoption of a new and more effective method of securing for the state collection records of the individual services of Minnesota soldiers, sailors, and marines. Under the original plan, such records were being compiled for the commission by its county committees. While some of the latter were making notable progress with this big task, in many counties the work either had not been started or did not give promise of reasonably early and complete returns. Furthermore, the marked predilection of nearly all the local committees for this part of their work bade fair to postpone indefi-

nately the collection of other important classes of material. When, therefore, the soldiers' bonus law was enacted in September (*Laws, Special Session, 1919, ch. 49*), the commission welcomed what has proved to be an exceptional opportunity for compiling and collecting service records on a large scale, in a short time, and with a minimum of effort. An arrangement was made with the bonus board whereby the latter has included the commission's military service record form among the papers to be filled out by each applicant for the bonus. As a result the commission is beginning to receive through the board large numbers of completed service records accompanied in not a few cases by soldiers' photographs, letters, and other personal matter. At the same time the county committees have been encouraged to take advantage of the present wholesale filling out of questionnaires by service men to compile duplicate records for the county collections. There is every prospect that the new method will result in the recording, here and in the counties, of rather complete data on the careers of all but a very small percentage of Minnesota men in the service.

Interest in the compilation of service records in connection with the distribution of state bonuses to service men has made possible the organization of war records committees in Clay, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Martin, Murray, Norman, Red Lake, Sibley, and Wabasha counties, in all but one instance under the leadership of a local representative of the American Legion. These committees were organized primarily for the purpose of securing service records for preservation in the counties, but it is hoped that they will shortly develop into full-fledged county organizations engaged in the building up of county collections of records relating to civilian, as well as to military activities. Three of the committees have secured local appropriations: Clay County, a provisional appropriation of two hundred and fifty dollars from the county board; Lake County, two hundred dollars from the county board and fifty from the city of Two Harbors; Murray County, one thousand dollars from the county board.

A conference of county chairmen of the Minnesota War Records Commission was held September 3 in the Historical

Building, St. Paul. The Honorable William E. Culkin and Colonel Roe G. Chase, chairmen in St. Louis and Anoka counties respectively, told of the work done by their committees. Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook, secretary of the commission, brought out various features of the work of the county committees in general and discussed the work of the war records organization in its relation to that of private agencies engaged in the preparation and publication of county war histories as business ventures. The objects and achievements of the state body in acquiring records of general significance for the state war records collection were set forth by Mr. Cecil W. Shirk, field agent of the commission.

The Minnesota War Records Commission has taken an active part in a movement for the coöperation of all state agencies engaged in collecting and compiling the records of the participation of their respective states in the World War. On September 9 and 10 the secretary of the commission together with representatives of similar bodies in fifteen other states met in conference at Washington upon the call of Dr. James Sullivan, state historian of New York. The most important result of this conference was the establishment of a permanent organization known as the National Association of State War History Organizations. This body will maintain, at joint expense, a bureau in Washington for the purpose of supplying information about and making transcripts of documents in the governmental archives and other central depositories which bear upon the war activities of the several states. It is expected that the bureau will also serve as a clearing house for information pertaining to problems encountered, methods followed, and results achieved by the member agencies in their respective fields. The officers and executive committee of the association for the first year are as follows: president, James Sullivan, state historian of New York; vice-president, Arthur K. Davis, chairman of the Virginia War History Commission; secretary-treasurer, Albert E. McKinley, secretary of the Pennsylvania War History Commission; additional members of the executive committee, Franklin F. Holbrook, secretary of the Minnesota War Records Commission, and Benjamin

F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

An account of the work of the Minnesota War Records Commission appeared in the *St. Paul Daily News* for August 31 under the title, "Records of Minnesota's Part in the World War to be Preserved." The article served to bring this work to the attention of many former service men who were assembling in St. Paul at that time for the first annual convention of the Minnesota branch of the American Legion.

The *Proceedings* of the first annual convention of the Minnesota branch of the American Legion (vii, 159 p.) contains a stenographic report of the sessions, which were held in St. Paul, September 2, 3, and 4, and a list of the delegates in attendance from all parts of the state. One of the purposes of the organization, as stated in its constitution, is "to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War"; hence a historian, Samuel G. Iverson of St. Paul, is among the officers elected during the meeting. The constitution of the Minnesota branch and the resolutions adopted during the convention are published in a separate pamphlet (23 p.).

The first number of the *Northwest Warriors Magazine*, an illustrated periodical edited and printed by "men who fought for democracy" and published in Minneapolis, appeared in August. The editors announce that the magazine "will give the history of the Northwest's fighting men in the great war and will seek to perpetuate the memory of the deeds of valor and heroism of her sons." In the three issues which have appeared thus far, this promise is being fulfilled. Each contains an installment of a history of the 151st United States Field Artillery (the Gopher Gunners), and sections of "A Tribute to the Red Triangle" by Edgar J. Couper, president of the Minneapolis Y. M. C. A., appear in the August and October numbers. A history of the 88th Division and the story of "Base Hospital No. 26," by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur A. Law, which also appears in the June number of *Minnesota Medicine*, begin in the September issue and are continued in that for October, while the latter also contains the first part of an account of the 337th United States Field

Artillery by Lieutenant Maugridge S. Robb. The value of these narratives is enhanced by the fact that, in most cases, the authors are men who actually participated in the events which they recount. An article by Cecil W. Shirk, field agent of the Minnesota War Records Commission, explaining the origin and aims of the commission appears in the August number of the magazine.

The September issue of *The Liberty Bell*, the publication of the War Loan Organization of the Ninth Federal Reserve District (52 p.), is a "valedictory" number, since the work which the magazine "was created to aid is done." The war is over; the problem of financing it by means of Liberty Loans is solved. The methods used in obtaining this result in the six states of the Ninth Federal Reserve District, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana, are described by the leaders of the various phases of the work. From the general discussion of "The Ninth Federal Reserve District's Accomplishment" by Arthur R. Rogers, chairman of the War Loan Organization, to the tale of the fighting tanks and the flying circus as factors in the Victory Loan campaign, the story is one of unique advertising and unprecedented response. Three fourths of the issue is devoted to a statistical table in which is presented the record of each of the three hundred and three counties of the district for each loan, together with the names of the state and county chairmen in charge of the campaigns.

A recent issue of the *Quarterly* published by the Minnesota State Board of Control (vol. 19, no. 3) is devoted to a "Summary of Activities During the War Period" of the educational, philanthropic, correctional, and penal institutions under its supervision. The data contained therein indicates the scope and value of the war work accomplished by the employes and inmates of these institutions and shows that even some of the most unfortunate of the latter were of material assistance in the prosecution of the war.

The *Report* of the supreme board of directors of the Knights of Columbus, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, on "War Work Activities" (New Haven, 1919. 55 p.), contains a series

of charts and statistics from which some idea of the work of this organization in Minnesota and of the number of Minnesotans in its overseas service may be gleaned.

"The Roll of Honor" in the history of *Phillips Academy, Andover, in the Great War*, edited by Claude M. Fuess (New Haven, 1919. 398 p.) contains biographical sketches of three Minnesota men who gave their lives for the cause of democracy, Irving T. Moore of Duluth, Perry Dean Gribben of St. Paul, and Kenneth Rand of Minneapolis. The "War Record" of the Andover alumni and students, which occupies nearly half of the volume, includes the military experiences of a number of Minnesotans.

One chapter of Emerson Hough's *The Web* (Chicago, 1919. 511 p.), the authorized history of the American Protective League, is devoted to the work of the Minneapolis division of that organization. The story of the experiences, exciting and commonplace, humorous and pathetic, of the operations of the league in what Mr. Hough erroneously calls "one of the North-West's Capitals" makes very interesting reading. The chapter is obviously a condensation of the *Summary and Report of War Service* which was previously issued by the Minneapolis division (see *ante*, 3:108).

In his *Brief Story of the Rainbow Division* (New York, 1919. 61 p.), Walter B. Wolf informs his readers that this "account of the 42nd Division was written . . . in order that it might be available to each member of the Division upon his return to the United States." The pamphlet, however, is of interest to all Minnesotans who take pride in their state's contribution to the Rainbow Division, the 151st United States Field Artillery. The experiences of the Minnesota unit are necessarily but lightly touched upon in a work of this scope. The account includes the story, concisely told, of the organization and composition of the division, of its long and brilliant period of service in France, and of the tedious months of waiting for home during the winter of 1918-19 while it formed a part of the Army of Occupation. One convenient appendix is composed of the names of the units

of the division with their original designations and commanding officers; another consists of a list of the sectors occupied by the Rainbow Division during the various periods of the war. A map on which the western front in June, 1918, is indicated and the fronts and sectors occupied by the 42nd Division are located, is a valuable addition to the pamphlet. The author assures the public that "a detailed and more extended record of the Rainbow is being prepared for early publication . . . in which the personalities of the soldiers and leaders . . . will be dealt with at length."

The Rainbow Highway Association has been formed in Iowa for the purpose of establishing a memorial to the men of the Rainbow Division in the form of a highway to extend from St. Louis on the south to St. Paul and Minneapolis on the north.

The memory of the Minneapolis men who gave their lives in the World War is to be perpetuated in an unusual manner. Sixteen hundred elms, one for each man who died in the service, are to be planted in six rows along a memorial drive which is now being graded and prepared between Glenwood Park and Camden Park. The income from a fund of fifty thousand dollars, presented to the city by Charles M. Loring, will be used in caring for the trees.

The McLeod County men who were in the military service during the World War were welcomed home in a great celebration at Hutchinson on August 19. It is estimated that thirty thousand people thronged the streets of the town to watch the parade composed of veterans of the Civil, Indian, Spanish-American, and World wars. After the parade eight hundred of the eight hundred and fifty former service men of the county received bronze medals. In the evening a historical pageant was presented on the main street of the town.

The national and regimental colors of four units of the 88th Division which were made up largely of Minnesota men have been turned over to the state by the war department. The colors are those of the 351st and 352nd regiments United States Infantry, 313th United States Engineers, and 337th United States

Field Artillery. They have been added to the display of Minnesota Military colors in the rotunda of the Capitol. The colors of two units outside of the 88th Division, the 125th United States Field Artillery and the 55th United States Engineers, have also been received and included in the collection.

A summary account of what the various states are doing in the collection of material for the history of state and local participation in the World War appears in the October number of the *American Historical Review* in an article entitled "The Collection of State War Service Records," by Franklin F. Holbrook, secretary of the Minnesota War Records Commission. Admittedly but a preliminary survey of developments in a new and broad field, the article reveals the fact that "central governments or governmental agencies in at least thirty-five states have made special and more or less adequate provision for the conduct . . . of systematic and state-wide campaigns for the acquisition of all available records of the war services performed by their several commonwealths." Minnesota is shown to compare favorably with other states except that, in a number of cases, state war records agencies elsewhere receive much more liberal financial support.

Wisconsin in the World War, by R. B. Pixley (Milwaukee, 1919. 400 p.) is a compilation consisting mainly of names and statistics. It seems to be a cross between the state blue book and the commercial county history types of literary endeavor.

